

Australasian

# SPARTACIST



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## Military Victory to Salvadoran Leftists!



Salvadoran guerrillas are not fighting to give up military victory for a "political solution" with the junta.

Granma

# High Noon in Central America

The much-heralded "free world" election in El Salvador last month backfired in the face of its American sponsors. Where the State Department had hoped to renew a little democratic pretence to their puppet junta it was ex-Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, labelled a "pathological killer" by the last American ambassador, who emerged as the man most likely to forge an ultra-rightist coalition government.

Faced with threats of US intervention, the Salvadoran guerrillas, Nicaraguan

Sandinistas and Cuban Stalinists have been trying to buy a little peaceful coexistence from Reagan and Haig. But Central America is on the front line of the US imperialists' Cold War offensive against the Soviet bloc. General Haig has proclaimed that the Salvadoran insurgency is "a global problem" originating in Moscow" (*Washington Post*, 14 March). And if the perspective of a negotiated "political solution" to El Salvador's civil war and Sandinista-State Department detente was a treacherous

illusion before, now it has become a naked call for suicide by the leftist forces. The lurch to the right as a result of the March elections poses pointblank the real alternatives in Central America: social revolution throughout the region or a peace of the graveyards.

### "Tropical Fascism"

In El Salvador last month Roberto ("Major Blowtorch") D'Aubuisson tried a novel twist on the common Latin

American pattern: after several failed coup attempts, he came to power in a phony election. D'Aubuisson got his nickname for his skill at interrogation with that device when he ran the torture chambers for former dictator Carlos Romero. Since that time he has become El Salvador's leading ultra-rightist politician, bankrolled by absentee landlords in Miami and organizing a fascist party known as the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

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## Near East: Begin's Annexation by Terror

Passover leaves canceled, reservists called up to replace regular soldiers on the Lebanese border, troop movements north. Israel is preparing for another invasion of southern Lebanon, using the pretext of its slain diplomat in Paris. While the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) disclaims responsibility for

this act, it is the mass of Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon who will pay. It's what the British used to call "collective reprisals" when they administered the Promised Land. Today the Zionists apply it to an entire people.

From the Israeli standpoint the time is propitious to strike. Syria is bogged down

suppressing the Muslim Brotherhood and half a dozen other internal oppositions. Iraq is still tied down in its interminable war with Iran, and now it's losing. Egypt's president Mubarak will do nothing to seriously upset Begin, thereby giving Israel cause to delay its final pull-out from the Sinai scheduled for April 25.

And just as Israel annexed the Golan last December while everyone was watching Poland, now the Zionists are looking to invade Lebanon while the world is entertained by the British blockade of the Falklands.

It certainly hasn't been a good week for American imperialism. As he basked in the Caribbean sun, Reagan must have felt mighty frustrated that all his squalid reactionary allies won't quit fighting one another and unite in a holy war against Russian Communism. Still the Near East picture is not all black for Washington. The Pentagon has quietly slipped its Rapid Deployment Force into the Sinai as part of the "peace-keeping forces" to replace the Israeli army. US imperialism thus has its armed forces right where it

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# Begin...

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wants them, across a narrow strait from the oil fields of Saudi Arabia.

## Israeli Protests Against Zionist Terror

It is not however external, but rather internal conditions that are driving Zionist Israel toward war. Like the Argentine junta, the Begin regime needs to restore the "spirit of national unity". For a good portion of the Israeli population is deeply disturbed watching night after night of video clips of Israeli soldiers gunning down unarmed Palestine youth while fanatical Zionist vigilantes armed with automatic weapons rampage through Arab villages. Late last month Israeli authorities and so-called Jewish "settlers", that is, kill-crazy psychopaths in prayer shawls, went on a reign of terror, killing at least six Palestinian youths and wounding dozens of others.

Then on April 11 an Israeli soldier, Alan Goodman (like "Eli the Wolf" an immigrant from the USA), shot his way into one of Jerusalem's holiest mosques, the Dome of the Rock, and sprayed it with machine-gun fire, killing at least two and wounding as many as 40. Israeli police and riot troops then moved in and attacked the Arabs who were trying to capture the mass murderer Goodman.

The rising wave of Zionist terror — of which the Dome of the Rock massacre is only the latest, most spectacular instance — and the prospect of imminent annexation have provoked the most massive protests on the West Bank since 1968. Perhaps more importantly, these protests have spread to Israel itself, even among elements of the Hebrew-speaking population. Israeli Arabs called a one-day general strike in solidarity with the West Bank Palestinians, and the predominantly Jewish and traditionally pro-Zionist "Peace Now" movement brought 50,000 into the streets of Tel Aviv on March 27.

This was the largest demonstration by Hebrew-speaking Israelis against Zionist militarism in over two decades. Although the "Peace Now" demonstration was endorsed by a number of parliamentarians from the main Zionist party, the so-called Labor Alignment, the slogans raised went beyond what passes for liberalism in today's Israel. Among them were "No to Occupation", "Begin Go Home" and even "Golan is Syrian", the latter actually being *illegal* in Zionist Israel. Furthermore, at both demonstrations the PLO flag was unfurled, an act of unprecedented daring for Israeli Arabs.

The protests on the West Bank began in March when Israeli authorities dissolved the town council of El Bireh and replaced the elected Palestinian mayor, Ibrahim Tawil, with an Israeli army officer. The pretext was Tawil's refusal to meet with a newly established "civilian administration" which had replaced the military one, clearly a prelude to extending direct Israeli rule over the West Bank. The dismissal notice was delivered by a squadron of Israeli army officers who charged into Tawil's office and marched him out at gunpoint. This provoked the

# Pro-Solidarnosc Vandals Deface May Day Haymarket Monument

CHICAGO — In 1886 four men went to the gallows here because they championed the rights of labor. A fifth died in his cell, either driven to suicide or killed by prison guards. Parsons, Spies, Engel, Fischer and Lingg — they were the Haymarket martyrs. They were leaders of the eight-hour day movement which was sweeping the country and which gave birth to May Day. In an attempt to drown that movement in blood the capitalist class, its courts and cops, framed and legally lynched these men. But as he stood before the hangman with the black hood pulled over his head, August Spies declared: "The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today."

Their martyrdom was an inspiration to the burgeoning movement for the self-organization and unionization of labor. May Day, the holiday of the international working class, has become their memorial. On 25 June 1893, six years after their lynching, a monument to the martyred labor leaders was unveiled in the Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. This monument has often been a rallying place for May Day demonstrations in Chicago.

Supporters of Polish Solidarnosc chose to demonstrate their "Solidarity" by defacing this monument in December. In a vile anti-working-class exhibition white paint was poured over the head of the bronze statue marking the graves of labor's martyrs and "Solidarity" was spray-painted across the granite base in red. The link between the robber baron murderers of the Haymarket martyrs and the supporters of Poland's CIA-backed company "union" could not be more vividly portrayed. This act is in keeping with Solidarnosc's worship of Polish dictator Pilsudski, its appeal for membership in the imperialist bankers' International Monetary Fund, its praise for union-busting Reagan's America. Their brothers in Solidarnosc flee the "tyranny" of Poland for the "freedom" of South Africa where their white skins entitle them to gorge on the spoils of the super-exploitation of enslaved black labor.

Haymarket martyr George Engel, as he stood to be sentenced, said: "I hate and combat, not the individual capitalist, but the system that gives him those privileges. My greatest wish is working men may recognize who are their friends and who are their enemies."



We appeal to all those who stand by the elementary rights of labor and against Reagan's war drive for capitalist "rollback" in East Europe to aid in the restoration of the monument to the Haymarket martyrs. Contributions marked "Monument" should be sent to the Illinois Labor History Society, 20 E Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60605.

— reprinted from Workers Vanguard no 303, 16 April 1982

traditional West Bank protest: Arab merchants shuttered their shops and students boycotted classes. The Israeli army responded by forcing merchants to re-

populated Palestinian areas. Begin and his super-hawk defense minister Ariel Sharon, on the other hand, are moving to implant groups of armed Zionist fanatics

inians who work for Israeli construction companies building settlements in the West Bank did not, by and large, down tools. Therefore the strike, limited to the Palestinian communities, starved itself out without throttling the Israeli economy.

The Arab general strike within Israel was led by the pro-Moscow Stalinist Rakah, a genuinely bi-national party with some roots in the Israeli proletariat. Yet due to its reformism and nationalism (more precisely bi-nationalism, both Palestinian and Zionist), Rakah made no effort to spread the strike beyond the Arab communities, made no appeal to Israeli Arabs as workers and also no appeal to the Hebrew-speaking proletariat. The result was that the Stalinist-led general strike of Israeli Arabs was just as middle-class as the West Bank pro-PLO protests.

Significantly, however, the West Bank general strike in response to the Dome of the Rock massacre for the first time included Arab migrant workers who work in Israel proper. As for the petty-bourgeois "Peace Now" movement, it is traditionally pro-Zionist and has not generally opposed the Israeli presence in the occupied West Bank so long as this occupation is peaceful. Yet the militant slogans carried in its demonstration (eg, the illegal "Golan is Syrian") indicate a certain radicalization in this milieu as Begin threatens the entire Near East with disaster.

What is needed in both the West Bank and Israel is a bi-national workers party to break both the Arab and Hebrew-speaking proletariats from the dead end of nationalism and mobilize them for common class struggle. Such a revolutionary party would demand: Imperialist troops out of the Sinai! Israel out of the occupied territories! For the right of self-determination for the Palestinian and Hebrew-speaking peoples! For a socialist federation of the Near East!

— reprinted from Workers Vanguard no 303, 16 April 1982



Hebrew-speaking people and Palestinians protest Begin's terror on West Bank. "Peace Now" demonstration in Tel Aviv, March 27 draws 50,000.

open their shops and shooting into crowds of stone-throwing youths. Backing up and egging on the soldiery were armed Jewish fanatics from "settlements" like Shiloh, north of Jerusalem.

Tawil, along with fellow Palestinian West Bank mayors Bassam Shakaa and Kharim Khalaf, is an outspoken supporter of the PLO. The three mayors were targets of Zionist bomb attacks last June. While Tawil escaped unharmed, Khalaf lost a foot and Shakaa both his legs. When Israeli soldiers barred Shakaa from the Nablus town hall they mocked the crippled mayor for being "half a man". He retorted, "You have lost your head" (*Newsweek*, 5 April).

The West Bank mayors were elected to office when the occupation was run by the Labor Alignment, which despite its name was for many years the main bourgeois Zionist party. The denial of the Palestinian right of self-determination and the creation of Zionist settlements on the West Bank as "accomplished facts" is very much a *bi-partisan* policy. Labor differs from Begin's supporters in proposing to ring the West Bank with settlements, avoiding for now the densely

right next to the major West Bank cities and towns, ultimately to drive the Palestinian population out through terror.

## For Proletarian Internationalism

There is no questioning the just anger and courage of the Palestinian youth — subjected to every humiliation and outrage by the Zionists — who attacked armed Israeli convoys with nothing but rocks. And it certainly took courage for the Israeli Arabs and "Peace Now" demonstrators to display PLO flags in the heart of Tel Aviv, an act of "sedition" in Begin's Israel. Yet without a proletarian revolutionary perspective this kind of courage can produce only martyrs, not victories.

The limitations of the petty-bourgeois nationalism of the PLO were clearly seen in the two-week West Bank general strike, which was restricted to schools, shops and small businesses. The 80,000 West Bank Palestinians who commute daily to jobs in Israel and who are increasingly a strategic, if super-exploited, part of the Israeli labor force, continued to work throughout the strike. Even Palest-

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# IS — "Left Pole" of Captive Nations ?

## Hard Times in the "Third Camp"

ASp photo

"The past period has been a difficult one. We have suffered our first significant split ever, costing a large section of the Brisbane branch. Recruitment has been sluggish, and we have suffered a slow but steady attrition of individual long-term members in Sydney and Melbourne . . . . Our first task is to look reality in the face, but our second is to analyse it and determine just how serious the situation is, and what we can do about it."

— *State of the I.S.* [International Socialists] February 1982

This glum prognosis was delivered by founding IS leader Tom O'Lincoln in the aftermath of a prolonged cliquist/factional crisis in this congenitally clique-ridden organisation. O'Lincoln's piece is one of a collection of IS documents (most undated, some unsigned) going back to their April 1981 national conference which ironically cites their Brisbane branch as a success story and area of significant growth. Soon after the conference some dozen branch members quit only to rejoin and split again a couple of months later. The Brisbane-based opposition was even more liquidationist than the IS, if that is imaginable, finding even the IS's gross parody of "Leninism" to be a hindrance in the pursuit of their various pet enthusiasms — vicarious Irish nationalism, feminism, etc or like the former editor of their theoretical journal, Andrew Milner, proposing dissolution into the ALP.

What really made the clique sparks fly, however, were the inevitable charges of high-handed bureaucracy. Pointing to Tony Cliff's British Socialist Workers Party as a model, IS leader Rod Connolly asks the already departed Milner:

"Isn't it true that in the SWP major debates often tend to be restricted to the Central Committee and those in London in the know? Isn't it true that minorities in Britain have a habit of getting expelled if they keep up their opposition after conference has decided?"

— *Milner's Politics of Pessimism: A Political Reply*

The cliquism survived the split, of course, as O'Lincoln unintentionally indicates in his *State of the IS*: "Every reasonable effort must be made to ensure that leaderships do not give their supporters special treatment, and that they and their supporters do not behave factionally", he cautions, without intimating the slightest political distinction between those who "support" the "leadership" and those who don't. But such is only one aspect of IS internal life, and hardly the worst. One document from the 1981 conference which argues for dumping the IS women's caucuses gives an idea of what happens when middle class radicals try slumming it:

"Sexist acts by members are just one example of uncomradely behaviour (sic) and not necessarily the worst. You could construct a huge list including racism, ageism, heterosexism, physical violence, drunken abuse, theft of members or IS property, endangering the security of IS, general indiscipline etc. Should we then set up separate commissions to deal with each of these types of uncomradely behaviour? Obviously not. IS would be bogged down with so many different commissions that we would get nowhere."

— *Womens Caucus*

— *what the discussion has revealed so far*

### Trying to Come In From the Cold

What's interesting about the documents are not so much the horror stories, though they do provide an insight into the sordid internal workings of this particular variant of "democratic socialism", but the highly self-conscious anti-Sovietism that makes the IS tick. Thus the 1981 conference document makes the obvious point that "paranoid anti-Sovietism" was the kiss-of-death for the Maoists, making "class collaboration central to their politics" and "impelling them to the right". Yet only a few pages later the Maoists are singled out as the only "left"

tendency to share the IS position on Afghanistan, "one of our most controversial foreign policy positions in recent years". At that time the IS turned out for a "Captive Nations"/Maoist rally in Melbourne — "probably the most outrageous anti-communist rally seen in this city since the 1950s", the SWP's *Direct Action* short-sightedly wrote — with a leaflet calling for "victory" to the CIA-backed "Afghan rebels" against "Russian occupation".

Likewise, Connolly points to the 1980 Olympic boycott fiasco to discredit Milner's "pessimism", challenging Milner to "explain the spectacular failure of Fraser's anti-Russian campaign last year" (which incidentally, the IS supported until their British mentors pulled them into line). This cynical recognition of the necessarily reactionary character of anti-Sovietism obviously haunts the IS, which for years postured as the "militant" left pole of reformism. Why, says O'Lincoln, five or six years ago "we didn't care whether 'Russia is made of green cheese'". In fact the IS was as anti-Soviet then as it is now, but tempered its Cold War "socialism" to suit the mood of the post-Vietnam years. Now the old Shachtmanite banners (like "Smash Imperialism East and West" or "Neither Washington nor Moscow, but International Socialism") have been dusted off and unfurled once again.

Noting the rightward-drifting political

cistic Captive Nations scum that the IS, together with the SWP, rubbed shoulders with in "solidarity" with Solidarity last December, O'Lincoln comments:

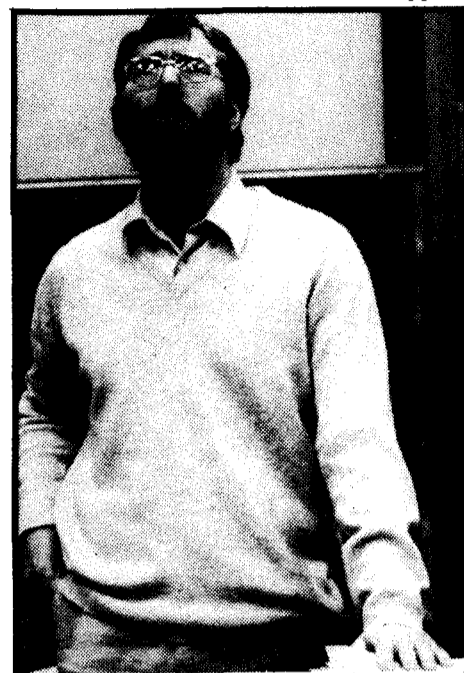
"Whereas we could say a year ago that the majority of the left was moving rightwards, but a minority was being polarised our way, we must now accept that we have failed to recruit significantly out of the minority and that it is now tending to dry up."

— *State of the I.S.*

How unfair it must all seem! Finally, anti-Soviet Cold War is again on the agenda, but instead of the expected rewards, the quintessential "third campists" are facing a crisis of perspectives.

### "Making the Battler Political"

One of the most striking themes to surface in the collection of documents is the narrow obsession with the existing "left movement" which lies barely concealed beneath the IS's special brand of economist-workerism. So what really counts as "political impact" is "Rick's work on economics" and that their fake-mass rag "still seems to be read around the mainstream left". Of course, the *Battler* always has been an undergrad's version of something for workers to read, dedicated to the petty-bourgeois workerist notion that philistinism is the only language the proletariat can understand. For the "pedagogical" touch there are



Tom O'Lincoln

*Glendower: I can call spirits from the vasty deep.*

*Hotspur: Why, so can I, or so can any man; but will they come when you do call for them?*

— *Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part One*

found ourselves increasingly isolated". Worst of all, "we get accused of sectarianism by the CPA and a number of independents" so that "the temptation is to tone down our presence". Here enters the Spartacist League, the ultimate "sectarian" bogey for inveterate opportunists like the IS. "On the one hand you have the most radical formal stance — you are a 'Communist', a 'Bolshevik', etc" explains O'Lincoln:

"The Spartacist League is the almost perfect embodiment of this trend; it grows when the rest of the left is in difficulty, and remains stable when the left is in crisis. Those who have never tried to storm heaven do not resent being earth-bound".

By "storming heaven" what the IS has in mind are things like "our involvement with the United Lebanese Communists", as Connolly puts it, when the IS dumped its defeatist position on the Near East wars and advocacy of self-determination for Israeli Jews in order to chase what looked like a good opportunity. "We got no recruits", Connolly admits, "But we did get a migrant, working class social milieu for the Sydney members to mix with"! Or perhaps O'Lincoln was thinking of the IS's "major opposition to the right-wing leadership" in the VPSA which, according to Phil Griffiths "collapsed when the leadership moved leftwards" and "co-opted some of our ideas".

For the IS "sectarianism" is a code-word for political backbone, something they have no need for. O'Lincoln's almost complimentary portrait of the SL is all the more telling now that the IS has revved up its anti-Spartacist slander campaign, attempting to write the SL out of the workers movement. "Sectarian" and "disruptive" no longer makes it; now the SL is baited as "violent" and "Soviet imperialist", all the better to set up our organisation for repression while cementing their own alliance with Cold War reaction.

### "How Bad are Things?"

In the last issue of *Australasian Spartacist* we noted that the IS's "virulent anti-Sovietism and anti-communism echoes not currently-held sentiments amongst the general working-class public, but the mood of bourgeois ruling circles and the traditional anti-communist right". This touches at the heart of what is plaguing the IS. As the

Continued on page six

to lead the group. One of the main abilities is the ability to handle the day to day... to handle uncomradely behaviour.

Sexist acts by members are just one example of uncomradely behaviour and not necessarily the worst. You could construct a huge list including racism, ageism, heterosexism, physical violence, drunken abuse, theft of members or IS property, endangering the security of I.S., general indiscipline etc. Should we then set up separate commissions to deal with each of these types of uncomradely behaviour? Obviously not. I.S. would be bogged down with so many different commissions that we would get nowhere.

Why should sexism be made an exception from sexist acts or whatever? There can only be two serious arguments, either that the leadership in I.S. is particularly bad...

### From the horse's mouth: life in the IS.

climate, the 1981 conference document stresses the need to highlight "our distinct politics", ie, "our insistence that there is nothing progressive about the ruling groups in Russia and China". ISers at Sydney University got the message, opening their *Orientation '82* handbook statement with "Why don't all you commos go back to Russia?" to then protest, "But we in the International Socialists don't have any illusions in Russia". In its section on Poland the document sees the threat of capitalist counterrevolution and the "impending imperialist invasion by the USSR" as an exciting opportunity to "deal a death blow to the notion of 'socialism' (deformed or not) in Eastern Europe", bragging that "we are the only group" which can "explain the Polish crisis" to "those around the left".

The results of this primitive anti-communism have been rather dismal, however. Bemoaning the "sluggish response to the Polish events", ie, the refusal of the bulk of organised labour to turn out for Walesa, along with the fas-

articles like O'Lincoln's "Socialism — in 57 varieties?" where O'Lincoln tries to coax "independents" into membership who don't like the "fragmentation of the left" by admonishing: "Doesn't that make you each a little fragment of one? And isn't that much worse?"

Referring to earlier days, O'Lincoln's *State of the I.S.* says, "we emphasized 'learning to talk English'". Now "we will be reprinting a National News article on 'Making the Battler Political'", no doubt meaning more articles like "From Russia With Blood", in the same spirit of gutter journalism but devoted to espousing the virtues of anti-Soviet "democracy".

### "Chasing the Breaks"

The 1981 conference document (*State of the Australian Left*) locates the cause of the IS's problems in the rightward motion of the "left" and the decline of the "movements", the sine qua non of IS existence: the "activists" are "tired", the women's movement "irrelevant" and in the anti-uranium movement, "we

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# March 27 El Salvador Protest

## REPORT FROM WASHINGTON DC



WV photo

## At Bidding of Rad-Lib Democrats

# Cops Seal Off Left

They brought in the cossacks, the motorcycle cops and [anti-terrorist] SWAT teams to keep out the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. The police blocked us from entering Malcolm X Park, then sealed us off once we got in, turning the assembly point and later our rally effectively into temporary detention centers. March 27 was an all-day political struggle in the streets of Washington between the "reds" who call for leftist insurgents to win the war in El Salvador and rad-lib "doves" who want to call the war off (particularly now that the rebels are winning). From early morning on a faction centered on Sam Marcy's [Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF)] of the reformist-liberal March 27 Coalition sought to provoke the cops, the armed fist of the capitalist state, to exclude the Spartacist League. But the superb display of police power suggests that far more powerful forces than the measly reformists had put a fix in against the revolutionaries.

Yet all the attempts to quarantine us with goons and cops and anti-Communist slander did not win the fight for the organizers of this pro-Democratic Party march. The SL-organized Anti-Imperialist Contingent was the focus of the entire day. Most of the crowd listened to our agitational speeches broadcast into the park while we were outside the assembly site, many thousands received our leaflets and more than 1,400 pieces of SL literature were sold in Washington on March 27. And despite the concentration of police power against us, when the most frenzied anti-Spartacists of the Coalition tried to cordon off the Anti-Imperialist Contingent by a chain of "marshals" with linked arms, we quickly took down that line. You couldn't miss it: the Spartacists were the ones fighting for leftist military victory in El Salvador; the reformists were the ones who called and hid behind the cops.

And it will be remembered, for every day it becomes more urgent and obviously necessary to defeat Reagan's blood-soaked colonels. Yet now that the Salvadoran rebels have the junta on the run, now that the vast majority of the American population opposes intervention ... now we hear more and more

about a treacherous "political solution". Because the liberal imperialists are worried about the US taking another defeat like Vietnam. So the official march organizers want the leftist insurgents in El Salvador to lay down their arms (negotiations/cease-fire). What that would mean is seen in the fact that a top candidate in the recent electoral farce was described by the former US ambassador as a "pathological killer" and is known locally as the "napalm candidate" who calls for a "peace of 200,000 dead". A "negotiated settlement" is a program for mass suicide.

Perhaps 35,000 protesters marched in Washington against Reagan's policies in El Salvador. But there were two counter-

Salvador!" Since the reformists' program increasingly flies in the face of reality, they can't defend it politically and resort to anti-communist slanders and exclusion. But massive frame-up and repression only go so far. Even without the aggressive presence of the Spartacist League, the ravenous appetites of Yankee imperialism put time on the side of the revolutionaries. And our rad-lib opponents know it.

### Exclusions, Slanders, Threats

March 27 was hardly the first time they tried to exclude our red flags and anti-imperialist banners from El Salvador marches. Last May 3 the People's Anti-war Mobilization (PAM) front group of Marcy's Workers World/YAWF set up a daisy chain of flower children linking arms to prevent people from attending our rally at the Pentagon. Unfortunately they didn't get a badly needed lesson on the spot.

But when Marcy's goons tried it again a month later, attacking an SL protest demonstration outside a PAM forum in New York, they got a taste of our vigorously defended workers democracy. Having failed to silence the Spartacists they turned to the capitalist state to do their dirty work for them, directly appealing to the cops to exclude us in Chicago (May 30) and New York (November 22).

In view of these repeated exclusions and the pervasive rumors of heavy violence against us, the Spartacist League wrote to the March 27 Coalition proposing talks to work out arrangements for the upcoming demonstration. Our letter noted that we and they "share a common opposition to Reagan's increasingly ominous threats" while sharply differing on the solution. We proposed advance coordination in order

to "avoid unnecessary physical clashes in the face of a police presence and the possibility of extra-legal Reaganite provocation". Despite numerous phone calls to Coalition headquarters in Washington and New York we received no answer.

Meanwhile rumors of provocation and threats against the Spartacist League, including possible use of deadly force (baseball bats) by some elements, were circulating at a rate we have never before experienced. To undercut the prospect of violent clashes and allay any misplaced fears that the Contingent might contest the order of march, we chose not to march but to exit the assembly site at a separate exit and walk by another route to the Anti-Imperialist rally.

The leaders of the March 27 Coalition had every opportunity to work out equitable arrangements with the Anti-Imperialist Contingent for Washington. They did not do so because their aim was to exclude the reds altogether, to keep communist politics out of their march for the Democrats. Some of the more frenzied anti-Spartacists had something else in mind, though. They wanted a bloody provocation, and while doing their best to get it, failed.

### Assembly Site Detention Center

So the stage was set. On the morning of March 27, there was a CISPEs goon squad of 30-40 deployed at our designated entrance to Malcolm X Park by 7 am. It was composed mainly of Marcyites who under their cover as Coalition "marshals" were pursuing their vendetta against the Spartacists. When spokesmen for the Anti-Imperialist Contingent approached the gate at 8.00 am we were met by a police official who said we could not enter because "the Coalition" did not want us there. He mentioned that the cops standing around were not ordinary police but the SWAT squad. A block away they had two busloads of riot cops together with vans for their arsenal. Shortly after, 25 motorcycle cops with riot clubs drove up, blocking us off with a line of cycles; some time later a dozen mounted police arrived. The Marcyite goons blocked the entrance with tables.



Anti-imperialism abroad means class struggle at home.

posed class programs raised on March 27. The popular-frontists' "stop the war" parade looked to the Democratic Party; the Trotskyists' "win the war" rally looked to the Salvadoran masses and the American working class. At Lafayette Park the March 27 Coalition "doves" had Salvadoran FDR spokesman Arnaldo Ramos (a dissident Christian Democrat) proclaiming "we do not take pride in our military activity"; at Farragut Park the Anti-Imperialist Contingent called for the workers and peasants to "Take San



Around 9.00 Anti-Imperialist Contingent and Spartacist banners went up opposite the park and a two-hour standoff ensued.

The Contingent began addressing the protesters on the other side of the police lines with agitational soapboxing. "We call for rebel victory, they call the cops!" began the chants. Soon much of the crowd in the park, several hundreds at this point, was listening and watching attentively; some seated on the banners were holding signs for "Military Victory to Leftist Insurgents". A few people filtered across the street to join us. A Spartacus Youth League soapboxer asked listeners on the wall opposite, "Do you side with the workers and peasants of El Salvador? Are you for their victory and the defeat of the junta? If you're for that, if you are for militant struggle against imperialism — not marching with the Democratic Party which brought us Hiroshima, the Bay of Pigs and the 'reform junta' of 1979 — if you're for labor action to bring down Reagan, then you belong with us."

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the Anti-Imperialist Contingent were vigorously protesting to the police that our democratic rights were being violated, and we were being prevented from doing what had previously been arranged with the authorities. We had put out tens of thousands of leaflets for the demonstration, there were going to be thousands in the park and we intended to go in like everyone else. We said that we were prepared to take hundreds of arrests in defense of our rights. This had an impact. So two Parks Department lawyers were brought from their homes by police cruiser to tell the official Coalition spokesmen they would have to sign a statement claiming imminent danger to safety — ie, a formal request for police intervention — to keep the Anti-Imperialist Contingent out of the park. They did not dare to put their slanders in writing, thereby making clear that their claims for "protection" were a smokescreen for a political exclusion. And so at 10.40 we entered the assembly site at Malcolm X Park, red flags flying and chanting, "Junta no, obreros si — Overthrow the bourgeoisie!"

But the Marcyites were intent on causing an incident, and immediately began bringing in goons to ring the Anti-Imperialist Contingent with their chain of linked arms. They moved up to the sidewalk in front of our area and began packing more people in behind the line. This attempt to segregate the reds, a clear violation of any kind of democracy, could not be tolerated. We formed up a flying wedge to break through their line (which incidentally sported an American flag). This was quickly and effectively done, sending their goons running and leaving a number sprawled on the

ground. Perhaps some of them will think twice next time before letting themselves be used for anti-communist exclusion; they should know that we can and will defend our right of access. It was over in a few seconds and our squad was already moving back by the time the cops charged in. For the rest of the afternoon, scores of riot cops and mounted police did the job the Marcyites were unable to do, sealing off the Anti-Imperialist Contingent to everyone, while another line of CISPES goons slunk behind the police.

#### Rally Site Detention Center

Shortly after 1 pm, as previously arranged, 400 supporters of the Anti-Imperialist Contingent filed out of the assembly site five abreast and proceeded



Cops move in to seal off Anti-Imperialist Contingent as Coalition goons are dispersed.

to Farragut Park to hold a rally along the line of the March 27 Coalition parade. Before the march approached, the cops again threw up a cordon sanitaire to cut off access to our event. Deputy Chief John Conner of the Special Operations Division, DC Metro Police, yelled at a Contingent spokesman: "I run the streets of Washington today. I'm telling you that nobody, nobody from this march is going into your rally. No negotiations!" They then set up an intimidating line of police vehicles (vans, motorcycles, mopeds and squad cars) and mounted police, and a second line of riot cops, behind which some Marcyite/CISPES goons set up their chain for much of the two hours it took the march to pass by. Repeatedly when people tried to cross the street they

were ordered or shoved back, in flagrant violation of their rights of free speech and assembly, and of ours.

As the head of the march came past, demonstrators from the Anti-Imperialist Contingent lined the perimeter of the rally chanting "Stop the exclusions! Let the people through!" And there were countless incidents of people being prevented from entering the park.

Despite the repeated use of the capitalist police against the Anti-Imperialist Contingent, the March 27 crowd was not hostile to our call for military victory to Salvadoran leftist rebels. On the contrary. Scare tactics, such as labeling the Contingent "communist", by the servile tools of the bourgeoisie also fell flat since the Spartacist League openly proclaims its communist program. As for the

"government agent" slander against the SL, only the most venal can still so insinuate after seeing the display of police force marshaled against us.

#### Sam Marcy: Democrats' Running Dog

The whole day showed a highly orchestrated display of police power, exercised so tightly and effectively as to turn both the Anti-Imperialist Contingent assembly point and our later rally into what were effectively temporary detention centers. The cops' sealing off of exits and access went far beyond any notion of "crowd control". Moreover, they simply tore up agreements made in good faith by our

Contingent concerning our demonstration plans. The action of the police amounted to prejudicial detention to seal off our politics, violating our civil rights at the behest of the March 27 Coalition.

The CISPES/PAM/CP/SWP popular-frontists are trying to build a movement for the liberal wing of American imperialism by contending that the struggle in Central America has nothing to do with Communism. Reagan/Haig say they are drawing the line against Communism in the Caribbean; CISPES & Co cover their ears and denounce the Spartacist League for telling the truth about imperialism's global designs. Everyone knows Reagan's target is the USSR, but the reformists pretend not to know in order to court the Democrats, who share the target but differ somewhat about the means.

In El Salvador the choice is "Revolution or Death". And even in the US it is increasingly clear that the only real solutions are revolutionary solutions. Hence the increasing use of exclusion and cop-baiting against us. CISPES/PAM used to argue that the Spartacists are ultra-leftists: the SL says no negotiations, isn't that unrealistic? But this argument no longer works. So the reformists must now say: sure the Spart line sounds good, but it's just an agent's trick. Thus our opponents have to grant the attractiveness of our line, the closest these cynics will ever come to admitting that their line for "political solution" is patently a disaster.

A decade ago the Marcyites and New Left radicals were chanting the slogan of the heroic Che Guevara: "Two, Three, Many Vietnams!" Now the Marcyite ex-radicals call for "No More Vietnams", seeking a bloc with the liberal imperialists who fear another losing colonial war.

The Vietnam War saw two "political solutions" (1945 and 1954) which divided up the country. But it took the NLF/North Vietnamese military victory to bring peace to Indochina. In El Salvador today, only the victory of the leftist rebels can put an end to the hideous massacres. And here at home, revulsion against the junta mass murderers, fear of Reagan's drive toward holocaust and desperation in the face of capitalist economic crisis are driving thousands of youth and working people toward the conclusion that determined struggle, not negotiations, is what's needed from Central America to the US. Our rad-lib opponent's fixation on the Spartacist League is a kind of fetishism, for at this juncture it is not mainly the activity of the SL but the blood-lust of Yankee imperialism itself which exposes the reformists' line for the cynical fraud that it is.

— abridged from *Workers Vanguard* no 302, 2 April 1982

## 2000 Run Nazis Out of Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR, Michigan — This US mid-western university town was the scene recently of an inspiring example of how to deal with fascists when a crowd of 2000 chased the Nazis out of town on 20 March. The Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20, initiated by the Spartacist League/US (SL/US), organized a broadly-supported militant mobilisation which did exactly what its name promised and sent the little band of Hitler-lovers with their swastikas and dreams of death camps running like rats.

The Nazis wanted to set up their race-terror operations right in the midst of the people they hate: blacks, Jews, socialists, gays and most importantly, labour. The Committee put out an urgent call to action: "All enemies of fascism must gather in a massive demonstration at the same time and place where the Nazis want to march." When the Nazis drove past the City Hall on 20 March where they had vowed to stage their provocation, they saw many hundreds gathered to stop them cold. Where they had hoped to raise their twisted cross for an American Hitler to "crush Communism", a fifteen-foot banner rippled in the wind: "Labor/Minorities/Students:

Stop the Nazis/Klan — Committee to Stop the Nazis March 20". Other banners and signs included slogans such as: "No Greensboros in Ann Arbor!" and "Don't Ignore Nazis, Stop Them!" The Nazis took a look at the many hundreds of militants organised by the Committee, sized up the tenor of the crowd and beat it. Significantly, they chose to go to the Federal Building, the site of a "peaceful rally" organised by the mayor of Ann Arbor to divert just anti-fascist outrage into an empty liberal protest.

When word spread through the crowd that the Nazis were at the Federal Building, first hundreds, then a thousand, then all 2000 angry demonstrators took off to give them what they deserved. The crowd kept the Hitler-lovers pinned against the Federal Building for ten minutes, where they were humiliated and pelted with ice, vegetables, anything that could be thrown until in panic the Nazis desperately tried to break a door down to escape the crowd's wrath. It was shattered, but a single black armed guard stopped the Nazis from fleeing inside. Then the police arrived, forming a protective cordon around them. The protesters continued to press against the cowed storm troopers until the cops loaded them

into the police bus, which drove off in a shower of rocks, shattering glass and shouts of "We won! We won!" As Alphonso Wells, an executive board member of a United Auto Workers Local, put it: "They came in goose-stepping, they went out turkey-trotting." Back at the City Hall the protesters applauded Committee spokesman Al Nelson's statement that: "the Nazis got their asses kicked and whoever was involved in that deserves credit for it."

Two thousand people turned out to stop the Nazis, a clear vindication of the Spartacist program for labour/black mobilisations to stop Nazi/Klan terror. Over 65,000 leaflets were distributed, 20,000 to the potential big battalion of the protest: the workers in the auto plants of the surrounding area. Hundreds of students signed up to work with the Committee, many getting up early in the morning to give out flyers at the auto plants. Ann Arbor's small black community was vitally interested. As one black auto worker said: "I'm not scared of the Russians. I'm scared of this country here." Relatives of Holocaust survivors and a large number of Jewish youth also worked with the Committee. Union support was key. Several local

labour officials played key roles in securing an impressive list of union endorsements for the rally. One Laborers Union official, Roy Greer, broke his leg pursuing the fascists but from hospital said: "If I had to I would gladly do it again."

The local bourgeoisie is in a frenzy because the mayor's "ignore the Nazis" rally fell flat on its face. The local press denounced violations of the Nazis' "free speech" and wailed about "mob-violence" while the local police issued summons on at least five occasions to Committee and Spartacus Youth League supporters for giving out leaflets and posters on campus. The chatter about "violence" is not pacifism but at bottom is a strategy of reinforcing the capitalist state, whose courts don't stop the fascists but go after their intended victims for defending themselves. Taking their cue from the liberals were the centrist anti-Spartacists of the Revolutionary Socialist League and Revolutionary Workers League. The centrists wanted only to "protest", not stop, the fascists (that would "alienate people") yet could mobilise none but a handful of campus leftists, ignoring the labour movement. They contemptuously refused the SL/US-

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# High Noon...

Continued from page one

Although current junta president Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democrats polled the most votes in the March 27 balloting, D'Aubuisson's ARENA ran a close second. The remaining votes were distributed among several right-wing parties which have pledged not to sit in a government with Duarte. To the State Department's discomfiture, the likely result of this situation will be a government in which "Major Blowtorch" pulls the strings.

D'Aubuisson founded the death squad known as the "White Warrior Union", had the archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero shot down at the altar, shot up the US embassy to protest Carter's policies and campaigned on a platform calling for a "final solution" to the guerrilla war, including the use of napalm. ARENA is above all a movement of the enraged petty bourgeoisie fearful

elections. But despite heavy fighting in the cities of Usulután and San Miguel, and virtually no voting in FMLN base areas, the promised election day offensive never materialised — the diplomatic manoeuvring for a "political solution" ruled it out. A real effort to defeat the fraudulent elections would have meant a military offensive as well as militant action by leftists in the cities and working-class suburbs. What's called for is a revolutionary drive to take San Salvador, by the guerrillas without and the workers within. But afraid of appearing as opponents of "free elections", the leaders of the FDR/FMLN popular front waffled and allowed the ultra-rightist ARENA to mobilise.

Soon the 1,500 US-trained troops will be returning from Forts Bragg and Benning, and "Major Blowtorch" will renew the junta's offensives. Now more than ever it is necessary to smash the army butchers on the battlefield. Military victory to the leftist insurgents!

As the question of a rebel military victory is posed so the FDR/FMLN tops

muttering, "Well, that answers our question".

When Gonzales faced an organised presence of excluded Spartacist supporters at Sydney University he simply slandered those who call for a military victory as "aiding imperialism". Gonzales saved his left face for an appearance at the recent conference of Resistance, youth group of the SWP, the 21 April *Direct Action* report featuring his statement that "If there is going to be a Vietnam in Central America, then let it be! The imperialists will suffer the same fate as in Vietnam!" A little fake rhetoric, but for the SWP/Resistance it is "No More Vietnams" in the streets as they do the foot-slogging for that wing of the ruling classes that fear another losing imperialist adventure and the resulting revolutionary upheavals in Central America.

The only real "political solution" in the interests of working people in El Salvador is a military victory of the rebels and Central America-wide workers revolution. A real defence of Cuba and Nicaragua from the threats of US imperialism requires revolutionary struggle throughout the Americas, including and especially in the United States — for workers action to bring down Reagan. The maniacs in the White House, State Department and Pentagon are prepared to unleash a thermonuclear imperialist World War III in their fanatical crusade to stop Communism. The psychopathic killers in Reagan's juntas in Central America call for a "peace of 200,000 dead". What's needed is a Leninist-Trotskyist leadership, a world party of socialist revolution, to stop these big league and bush league mass murderers in their tracks.

— adapted from *Workers Vanguard* no 303, 16 April 1982

taking the Malvinas is the establishment of an Argentinian Robben Island on one or more of the barren outcrops. The Argentinian proletariat must oppose the generals' nationalist appeals and get on with the struggle to smash the bloody junta.

But if the Argentine invasion is being used for national unity purposes in Buenos Aires, so too the Labour Party in Britain is milking the issue to make despicable patriotic propaganda in league with the most warmongering Tory backbenchers. Over the weekend Parliament held its first such emergency sitting since Suez. There that "inveterate peacemonger" Michael Foot combined with the worst Tory Colonel Blimps to denounce Thatcher's betrayal of the Falkland Islanders. Naturally the revolting display of jingoism that united left and right in the Labour Party (Tony Benn was reportedly to be seen in Parliament sporting a tie of the Royal Naval Reserve) was cloaked under the call to defend the Falklanders' "right to self-determination" against the "tinpot dictators" of Argentina.

We demand that Britain get out of all its colonies from the Falklands to Hong Kong. We say not a penny, not a man for the imperialist armed forces, and we emphasise that it is the duty of the British working class to oppose, lock, stock and barrel, any British military adventure in the South Atlantic.

— adapted from *Workers Vanguard* no 303, 16 April 1982

# Hard Times...

Continued from page three

imperialists whip up anti-Soviet frenzy over the "Russian Question" the IS is caught with its pants down way out in the right field. Whereas the niche sought earlier by the IS was as the "left" pole of reformism, today they have no niche.

Under the threat of confrontation with the PNP fascists at Sydney University the IS's pretence of "militancy" proved to be nothing but empty rhetoric. Caught between the Spartacist League's determination for mass action to stop the fascists and the CPA's mealy-mouthed pacifism the IS had no hesitation in opting for the latter (see "No Platform for Fascists! Drive the PNP off Campus!" in *Australasian Spartacist* no 93, April 1982). When it comes to anti-Soviet Stalinophobia and economist workerism the larger and organisationally more competent Socialist Workers Party does the job more effectively, and with a "Trotskyist" label to boot. The recent CISCAC tour by FDR diplomat Rafael Gonzales saw the IS reduced to running dogs for the SWP goon squads excluding Spartacists, a role that genuinely captures their real position.

Squeezed on all sides, the IS really has nothing to say and no prospects except as "left" lackeys for anti-communist reaction. After 14 pages devoted to discrediting Milner's "pessimism" in his lengthy *In Defence of the International Socialists*, the verbose Phil Griffiths finally comes to his point: "Our task in the foreseeable future is to build a sect, the IS." We couldn't have put it better. ■

# Melbourne Uni...

Continued from page eight

filed an appeal against disaffiliation to the Union Board, its ALP chairman Maureen O'Brien resigned (badly, compromised after having capitulated to De Simone and having tried to defend the trial as "democratic"). With another ALPer, Donald Smith, as chairman, the Union Board has postponed the appeal until 12 May, in the middle of vacation, hoping to escape public protest. The student paper *Farrago* (published by the same Donald Smith) has now twice censored Spartacist Club articles on the witchhunt claiming they are "libellous". At the same time in their 23 April issue the editors scrawled "CIA propaganda"

*Australasian Spartacist*

EL SALVADOR:  
**MILITARY VICTORY TO LEFTIST INSURGENTS**

Smash The American Imperialist's El Salvador Puppet Butcher Junta That Massacred 30,000 Peasants And Leftists!

**MORE RUSSIAN-CUBAN MODERN ARMS FOR LEFTIST INSURGENTS!**

**DEFENCE OF CUBA-USSR BEGINS IN EL SALVADOR!**

No: To Fake Elections!

For Workers Revolution in Central America!  
Proletarian Revolution - Political Solution To El Salvador!  
WORKERS IN AMERICA

**RISE AGAINST THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS BLOOD-BATHS IN EL SALVADOR!**

Forward For The Rebirth Of The Fourth International

**SPARTACIST LEAGUE / LANKA**

FOR MARXIST LITERATURE: 11, CANAL ROW, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

**WORKERS VANGUARD**

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Proletarian internationalism: Spartacist League/Lanka poster campaign, in Sinhala and English, for military victory to Salvadoran leftist rebels.

of revolution. One of the most disturbing aspects of this US-ordered "election" was the evidence that this fascistic assassin is developing something of a mass following.

## The Elections and the Left

From the beginning it was clear that the Salvadoran elections were as phony as D'Aubuisson's "democratic" pretensions. The only opposition candidates allowed were various ultra-rightists, and the Christian Democrats campaigned only by grace of the US embassy, for which keeping the puppet Duarte in office was a major goal. Leaders of the left-wing opposition Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) refused to participate, pointing out that their predecessors had been brutally assassinated by the rightist death squads. The leftist opposition denounced the elections as a fraud and appealed to "world opinion" to back their call for a negotiated settlement.

This commitment to a "political solution" helped to paralyse the FMLN on election day and contributed to what was, despite D'Aubuisson's success, a propaganda coup for the US. The press was full of pictures of a million people lined up for hours to vote. The turnout was higher than anyone had expected. No doubt many voted out of fear that without a ballot receipt or a stamp on their ID card certifying that they had voted they would be subject to rightist terror. But the level of participation could not be attributed solely to fear. There was an undeniable element of war weariness. And, most importantly, the guerrillas had not waged a concerted campaign to boycott these bogus elections.

Ferman Cienfuegos of the FARN wing of the FMLN had pledged a major offensive aimed at "defeating" the

have stepped up their pressure to call off the war (ceasefire/"negotiations"), primarily through a diplomatic bloc with liberal imperialist opposition to Reagan/Haig. This was the message that came last month with the Australian tour of FDR diplomat Rafael Gonzales, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party-dominated Committee in Solidarity with Central America and the Caribbean (CISCAC). Gonzales, a university lecturer and member of the Popular Social Christian Movement, a breakaway faction of Duarte's Christian Democrats, explained the purpose of his visit (Age, 10 April) as seeking "more explicit concern" for "human rights" from Fraser's government as part of the FDR's international campaign for a "stoppage in the war" and "a start in dialogue" with the junta mass murderers.

Gonzales' tour was marked by an unprecedented mobilisation by the SWP to exclude the Spartacist League, ie, any opposition to the FDR/FMLN's suicidal "negotiated" betrayal. While right-wing Laborites like deputy Opposition leader Lionel Bowen, John Button and Clyde Holding echoed from CISCAC's podium their support for the FDR-backed "French-Mexican initiative" so favoured by liberal imperialism the SWP used goon squads and "disruption" lies to keep out the communists. At the CISCAC city-wide Sydney event at the NSW Institute of Technology dozens of "security" goons covered the entrance and the inside of the hall to suppress any hint of revolutionary dissent, as one unfortunate young man found out when he rose to call for discussion. Chairs were scattered when he was pounced on by SWP thugs, bodily dragged from the hall and "detained" as they demanded to know if he was a Spartacist. It was only after it became clear that he supported a military victory over Salvadoran leftists that they let him go,

# Ann Arbor...

Continued from page five

initiated Committee's offers of united action and on 20 March arrived with their own sound system hoping to drown out the labour-backed rally. When this disruption was neatly scotched, they chimed in with the bourgeoisie that the SL was "political gangsters" and "thugs". They are doing the bosses' dirty work.

Two thousand anti-Nazi protestors gave the "SS Action Group" a lesson it will never forget. But junior fuhrer Ted Dunn says his gang of genocidal psychopaths plan a "free Rudolf Hess" rally in Detroit on 9 May. Working the fascist fringe of Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive, the Nazis want to turn Detroit, a city of blacks and unionists, into one big Auschwitz. In response, the call is out for massive mobilisations of blacks and labour to stop them in Detroit on 9 May! ■

# Falklands...

Continued from page eight

power" they say, because "Argentine working people will be strengthened in their political consciousness, combativity, and self-confidence". What's next on the anti-imperialist agenda, we wonder, war with Chile for control of the Beagle Channel?

In fact, for the Argentinian junta under General Galtieri the Falklands invasion is a vital focus of national unity in the face of developing internal unrest over the catastrophic state of the economy. Just a few days before the attack there was a 15,000-strong demonstration organised by the General Confederation of Labour in Buenos Aires with large-scale arrests. Besides his efforts to get involved in El Salvador, Galtieri earned his reputation butchering left-wing guerrillas and wants a South Atlantic Treaty Organisation with South Africa. Nationalist fervour in Argentina is undoubtedly being fueled by the memory of being treated as an economic colony of Britain before World War I. However, those still alive among the thousands of leftists and trade unionists who have disappeared under the junta may well find the first fruit of



over the top of a letter submitted by long-time History staff member David Packer, an independent witness at one of De Simone's "interrogations" of the Spartacist Club, who wrote to "protest at the outrageous and monstrous treatment being accorded the Spartacist Club". Meanwhile at LaTrobe University the SRC there voted to condemn the witch-hunt and demanded the Club's immediate reaffiliation; and, as we go to press, a public protest meeting is being organised at Melbourne University with former AUS President Chris Hobson and Swinburne Law lecturer Henry Zimmerman among the speakers.

As for chief inquisitor Mr Joe De Simone, he is no ordinary joe it would seem. He is not only enrolled at Melbourne University but also the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (where, after running unopposed, he is now on the SRC) and has appeared at Sydney University SRC meetings brain-trusting the right wing. In addition he is an AUS National Executive member, working from within as part of the Liberal/NCC wrecking operation. In short, he is a professional right-wing "outside agitator". De Simone participated in the court cases leading up to the Kaye judgement, but it is the NCC, interestingly, that claims responsibility: "We were able by a series of tactical moves to almost completely stop the flow of funds from AUS to communist-inspired political campaigns" ("Youth Group Report to NCC Victorian Conference", in *They Can Do Anything We Don't Stop Them Doing*, a dossier on the NCC circulated to the 1979 AUS Council).

Particularly since the dissolution of the NCC's open political vehicle, the Democratic Labor Party, the National Civic Council has worked not only through their "Moderate Student Alliance" fronts but maintained their infiltration of Liberal and Labor Party groupings. At the top, of course, relations between the Liberal government and the NCC are excellent: witness the attendance of Fraser and Howard as honoured guests at the NCC 40th anniversary dinner this year, chaired, incidentally, by Melbourne University Council member Sir Bernard Callinan. Stop the witch-hunters! Defend the Spartacist Club!

#### Campus Spartacist — 14 April

On April 7, the day before the Easter break, the Melbourne University Spartacist Club was disaffiliated by the Activities Committee. . . . This was from start to finish a political witchhunt trial against the rights of communists to organise on campus, an unquestionable reflection of renewed Cold War anti-Sovietism. The Activities Committee upheld seven out of eight "findings" in the 8-page typed report of "chief investigator", Liberal Club arch-rightist Joe De Simone.

From the outset we said that we had nothing to answer for — we had met all the requirements for full club status, twice over now. Faced with "procedures" that allowed only for 3 representatives from our Club to attend, and an unprecedented proposal to "deliberate" on our affiliation in secret caucus, we met this "investigation" with public exposure and militant protest, bringing over a score of Club members, trade-

union supporters and opponents of the witchhunt to the 7 April meeting. Our "trial" was a railroad job, pure and simple. As we said in the 6 April *Campus Spartacist*, "our accusers, who make no secret of their hatred for our communist politics, are themselves prosecutor, judge and jury".

This disaffiliation must be overturned. We will not be silenced! Nor in this rightward-moving political climate do we intend to have our democratic rights trampled underfoot. The Spartacist Club has given notice of appeal to the Union Board. And, on and off campus, we intend to fight to stop these aspiring little Joe McCarthys in their tracks. As comrade Christine Stephens put it in a statement to the April 7 "trial",

"It is an anti-communist witchhunt, it is motivated by purely political considerations, and it is aimed at setting a precedent which if successful will have wide ramifications for the left and labour movement as well as the general right to dissent and free speech."

At the trial itself De Simone made clear in his demagogic summary that he wanted, not just a technicality to outlaw us, but a *political precedent* established, and heatedly demanded that *every one* of his "findings" be upheld. On the face of it the "findings" are pretty crude in their witchhunting intent, but it is the conscious, repeated and overtly political interpretations of the guidelines and regulations that add a much more ominous note. For at every step in the month-long campaign to destroy our Club it has been clear that forces further up the Administration hierarchy, notably the University Solicitors Office and members of the Union Board, have taken at least an active interest in the developing proceedings.

#### De Simone — Not Just a Dishonourable Schoolboy . . .

There are a lot of questions that could be asked about Mr De Simone. Only last year De Simone was expelled for refusing to pay the University Union fee which he fought as "a matter of principle" on the basis that it could be used to fund left-wing activity. In this he signalled to the Administration and other ruling-class forces that he was out for political hire against the left, an offer they refused at the time. Now he is back and while his political cohorts claim he is a student, others like Neil Roberts, Union Board treasurer, deny it. The answer to this puzzle undoubtedly resides somewhere high in the Administration.

The "heart" of De Simone's allegations is that we are "formed for non-University purposes", ie, he hopes to establish as a general proposition that the organised presence of left-wing political groupings on this campus is illegitimate. We have been found to be a "front group" which is "subject to external control" for our open political solidarity with the militant Trotskyist internationalism of the Spartacist League and the international Spartacist tendency and our stated intent to actively publicise and further its cause. De Simone "finds" that this has "no association with the University", ie, it is "alien" to ruling-class interests, and quotes as a precedent the notorious Kaye judgement which politically emasculated AUS in 1978.

Similarly, under the guise of "financial records", De Simone demanded "trade records" and called for seizing our assets, ie, Trotskyist/Spartacist literature sold at our literature tables, the proceeds of which of course go to the Spartacist League. This is more than just harassment, however, for his report went on to claim it was "illegal" under University Council resolutions for an "external organisation to sell new (or used?) books" on this campus. First we are deemed "external" and politically illegitimate, then our books are banned.

The only real substantive requirements for a club on this campus is having 25 members (defined in our constitution as "looking for a revolutionary perspective and interested in the struggle to build a Leninist party"). Both De Simone and Belbruno made a big point of highlighting the fact that some of our Club's key activists are "continuing education" students. Comrade Stephens took head

on this smug anti-working class snobbery and discrimination at the "trial",

"For (De Simone) 'continuing education' students are not students, they don't have any rights. Who are they? A lot of them are working people, like myself. You want to keep the universities a bastion for capitalist power and privilege. We want to open them up for the working class, the oppressed and the poor."

Throughout this witchhunt the chief angle of our accusers has been to claim "fraud", that our Club membership are nothing but "dupes". At the 7 April trial these allegations were repeated, with no names or evidence of any sort ever given and De Simone libellously alleging that if the supposed "evidence" was made public the "complainants" faced the threat of violent beatings at our hands. At the 24 March Activities meeting we handed in a double-signed membership protest at the Club's harassment with 32 names and signatures, including 28 full-time students. Since then we have joined up new members and on April 7 we even offered to sign a statutory declaration that we had the requisite number of Club members. Our offer was ignored, for the reality of our Club is irrelevant to their witchhunting intentions.

The "judgement" includes a rider granting us "registered club" status, ie, we retain the formal right to book tables and rooms. Certainly this is not De Simone's position. Rather it is a figleaf designed to conceal the despicable role of the Socialist Club, the ALP Club and "independent" liberals who participated in De Simone/Chappell's witchhunting operation. We are quite aware, as is De Simone no doubt, that the substance of the "findings" is that we have *no* rights. Period. Polarised by our militant political defence of our rights into the arms of the anti-communist right, the only time these cowardly liberals and reformists stepped out of line was when they rejected the ludicrous charge that we "duplicated" other left-wing clubs, no doubt seeing it as a threat to their own necks.

#### Melbourne Uni "Left" — Guilty as Hell

The complicity of the rest of the left and liberal political groupings in this witchhunt is both open and widespread. Most striking was the dubious and unsavoury Joe Belbruno, a "leader", no less, of the Socialist Club. Relegated this time around from chief anti-Red prosecutor to De Simone's cloying waterboy, this self-admitted liar's only notable contribution on April 7 was to squeal that he was being "slandered" for "sexually harassing" women Spartacist Club members over the phone! This was news to us, but added a revealing and pathetic note on this nasty and most dishonourable schoolboy.

The ALP's leading spokesman in the Activities Committee, Maureen O'Brien (who is also chairman of the Union Board), stayed only for a few token parries with De Simone over "procedures" and "worries" over the wide criteria of the "charges". These people have dirty hands. So too the *Farrago* editors who heavily censored our article in the 7 April *Farrago*. What did they censor? Our characterisation of De Simone and Belbruno's activities as an "anti-communist, anti-democratic witchhunt", our noting the fact that the right wing, who scream "intimidation" any time their actions are brought under public scrutiny, brought large sticks and billiard cues to the 24 March Activities "hearing", ie, we reported the facts and called things by their right names. We are the ones being libelled here, branded as "violent outsiders", set up not just for campus bureaucratism but for much more ominous forces of repression.

The reaction of the campus "left" is in sharp contrast to the response we have received from the broader labour movement. Our aggressive political presence on campus has torn away the pretences of these "university socialists", driving them hard to the right. But the support we have received from trade-union officials like George Crawford and Alf Zeeno and ALP figures like MP Joan Coxedge and state organiser Gerry Hand rests in no small part on a recognition, coming out of direct experience

with NCC/DLP forces in the mass labour movement, of the far-reaching dangers of such organised anti-communist campaigns.

Politics on the campuses, with their more volatile student populations, reflect and often anticipate the moods of broader social forces, in this case foreshadowing the kind of anti-communist repression that is the natural companion of anti-Soviet war preparations and sharpened domestic austerity. There is no question that the Spartacists' proud and intransigent defence of the gains of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution is at the heart of why we were chosen as the immediate target of the witchhunters, as they themselves have repeatedly made clear. But a political climate chilled by the first winds of Cold War does not settle the matter; it only makes the stakes higher. And we have every intention of continuing our political activities on this campus, including aggressively defending our rights. We call upon all those who have a stake in defending democratic rights to join us in beating back the witchhunters! Defend the Spartacist Club! Down with anti-communist witchhunting! ■

## Union Support

In the course of the anti-witchhunt campaign the Spartacist Club has received many letters and telegrams of support from prominent trade unionists and ALP members. Below we reprint a letter from Alf Zeeno, Victorian State Secretary of the Building Workers Industrial Union (BWIU), which was read to the 7 April Activities Committee protest.

Comrades,

Allow me to convey support for the Rally and for the defence of the democratic rights of all students, whatever their political persuasion, to join into the organisation or club of their choice and to carry out their student activities without the fear of unwarranted discrimination or harassment.

To condone or tolerate such harassment of any one group clearly demeans and weakens the whole student movement. The resulting divisions and weaknesses invite exploitation from those with little interest either in students or democracy.

The experience of our own organisation may serve as a clear illustration of such exploitation. During the early 50's, while involved in a bitter industrial dispute we were set upon by the combined forces of the NCC, the Industrial Court, larger Employer Associations and the Federal Government, all gathered under the all-embracing and all-phoney banner of Anti-Communism.

There followed an infiltration of NCC agents into our ranks, a massive splitting of rank and file members into opposing camps and the organisation of an NCC splinter group which led to the defeat of the industrial dispute.

Today some 30 years later, carpenters and joiners still bear the scars of that betrayal and still suffer exploitation, not only from Employers but from some within the Trade Union Movement.

I trust that the students here will not fall for the same divisive and destructive tactics which continue to divert our efforts and sap our industrial energies.

I trust that your campus will continue to be a forum where the widest diversity of opinion may be espoused and tolerated by all students and fairly assessed by their peers.

Alf Zeeno,  
BWIU

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## War Over the Falklands?

If it had happened one day earlier, many people hearing the news would have thought that it was just an April Fool's Day joke. Argentina had invaded the British colony of the Falkland Islands and as we go to press Britain's fleet of 40-odd ships (including Australia's bargain-buy but not yet delivered aircraft carrier, the HMS *Invincible*) is due to arrive to salvage its tattered imperialist pride and maybe try and seize the islands back.

Viewed from the White House it must seem positively sacrilegious. Just when you're trying to line up all of the righteous nations of the "free world" for holy war against the Soviets, they all turn around and start to poke each other's eyes out. The Russians, for their part, have had an essentially *trivial* pro-Argentina tilt. Not because of the Kurile Islands or some other tertiary issue, but because they are glad to see two American allies at each other's throats. And indeed they are. Washington's best friend in Europe and one of its staunchest allies in Latin America are threatening to blow each others' respective navies to pieces over a collection of barely inhabited islands and rocks in the South Atlantic.

Certainly the international proletariat may take some grim satisfaction if the Argentinians and British did succeed in destroying a good part of each others' fleets. Especially the toiling masses of

Central America who will recall that Thatcher and Argentine dictator Galtieri are among the handful who backed the junta's election in El Salvador by sending observers; that the British task force will include ships that have just finished taking part in NATO provocations against Cuba and Nicaragua in the Caribbean; and that the Argentinians have been pushing for a role in Central America, including in covert counterrevolutionary operations in Nicaragua.

The Falkland Islands — *Islas Malvinas* to the Argentinians — with a population of 650,000 sheep, probably the world's biggest colony of penguins and 1,815 English-speaking fishermen and sheep farmers, are hardly the jewel of anyone's empire. Besides reportedly rich fishing waters there are now unconfirmed reports of vast oil reserves in the area, though the technology to tap this is still not perfected. As well the islands have some strategic importance. Witness the major naval engagements fought in the vicinity in both world wars.

The Argentine attack is not a matter of Argentina's self-determination or of its national consolidation. Throughout the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans are hundreds of uninhabited or sparsely populated islands which were seized by major European imperialists and later the US. These safe anchorages, coaling stations and staging posts changed hands as the respective powers' influence ebbed

**Thatcher says British don't surrender: British marines eat dirt in the Falklands.**



or grew. With the decline of the European empires local powers developed their own ambitions.

The vague anti-colonial question involved in the Falkland Islands dispute is generally misplaced. As is the question of "self-determination" for the Falkland Islanders: 1,800 shepherders do not a people make. The desires of the dwindling population of the Falklands are a real factor, but marginal. Some provision should certainly be made for those who wish to return to Britain.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) responded to the tempest over the Falklands with an inverted echo of old Empire loyalists, insisting "British colonialism the issue" and heading its front page, "Why Argentina must be supported" (*Direct Action*, 21 April). In what must be a new, if ever-more-bizarre low for these vicarious "Third World" cheerleaders, *Direct Action* editorialised:

"The stakes of this conflict are high, for the imperialist governments on one side and the workers and poor of the world on the other."

The side of the "workers and poor", according to *Direct Action*, extends from Sandinista Nicaragua to Pinochet's Chile, the military terror regimes of Uruguay, Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and "the government ... of El Salvador"! To make its case, the SWP "analysis" has US imperialism's bloody regional puppets as part of a Latin American anti-imperialist united front against the British empire, with Argentina playing a British colony and the US backing Britain to the hilt (the British ruling class would like to be so sure). But both British and Argentine governments are likely to be made sharply aware, if they have forgotten it in the heat of the moment, that in this part of the world it is the US that calls the shots.

In a grotesque apology for the Argentine generals, the SWP portrays the junta with its territorial-nationalist aspirations as an instrument of "the Argentine people's struggle against imperialism". Victory over the British will "undermine the junta's hold on

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## Right Wing Targets MU Spartacist Club

# Stop the Witchhunters!

Following the defeat of the first attempt to witchhunt the Spartacist Club off Melbourne University, as reported in our last issue, the witchhunters almost immediately launched a second attack. This time, taking over from the dubious "socialist" Joe Belbruno, it was spear-

headed by Liberal Club member Joe De Simone (still aided and abetted in every possible way by the campus left). On 7 April the Activities Committee disaffiliated the Club following an outrageous McCarthyite "investigation" by De Simone (detailed in the 14 April *Campus*

*Spartacist* reprinted below).

This anti-communist witchhunt falls in the context of the emboldened right-wing drive to purge the campuses of organised left-wing political activity. In this the right's central focus over past years has been to either take over or destroy the left-controlled Australian Union of Students (AUS). As a national student organisation AUS is now barely alive, reduced to political impotence by its capitulation to the 1978 Liberal government-backed Kaye judgement which banned student funding of "outside political causes" and stripped financially by the wave of Liberal/NCC/ALP "Centre Unity"-backed secessions of major universities that followed.

As the austerity cuts dig deep into the campuses the right-left war in AUS has flared again with AUS reaffiliation moves at Sydney and Macquarie Universities and Liberal-led attempts to replace the paltry government stipend TEAS with a government loans scheme. In Sydney during April the car of AUS Sydney regional organiser David Cook was fire-bombed just before voting on reaffiliation, with "No to AUS" spraypainted nearby.

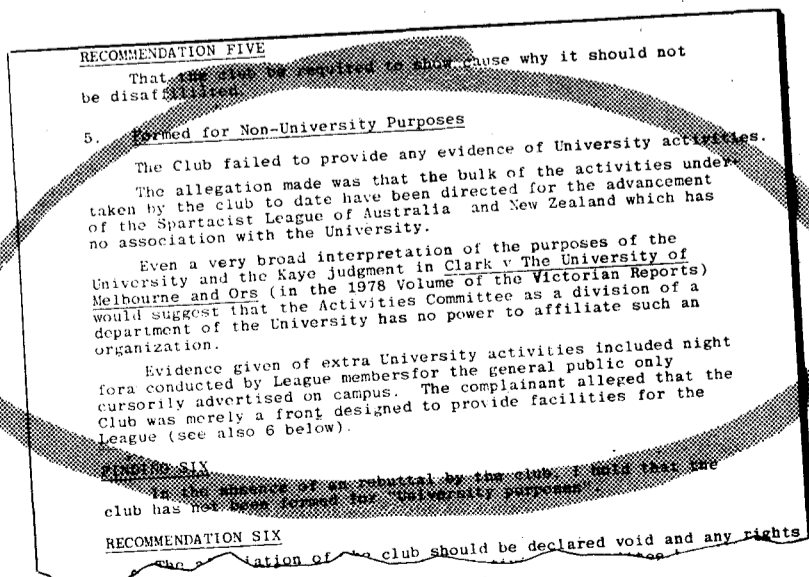
From the outset an important com-

ponent of the rightist offensive on the campuses has come from the ALP. Thus it was Melbourne University SRC President Michael Danby, the Zionist right-wing Laborite who collaborated with the Special Branch against the Maoists and Palestinian activists, that initiated the moves at Melbourne University to withhold funds from AUS in 1976. And in the present witchhunt against the Spartacist Club the anti-Soviet Laborites and their camp followers are in it up to their necks.

Indeed it was the Socialist Club, which encompasses the "left" ALP supporters on campus, who, through Belbruno, paved the way for De Simone. At a recent protest over cuts in the University Health Service Socialist Club members did the work of the Administration howling down Spartacist supporters as "non-students". With their anti-communist slanders of "disruption" and "intimidation" (ie, their petty reformist fears of open political confrontation with our communist politics) they actively back the Liberal/NCC witchhunters. The hate-Russia Socialist Club with their International Socialists hangers-on and the SWP have brazenly fed the witchhunt with their "Russian imperialist" and "violence" slanders, ostentatiously refusing to defend our democratic rights (see "IS/SWP — Noske and Scheide-mann's Little Grandchildren", in *Australasian Spartacist* no 93, April 1982).

Our aggressive campaign in defence of our rights has sharply polarised the campus. Soon after the Spartacist Club

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From De Simone's "report": open anti-communist witchhunting.