



Palestinian Rebellion Against Zionist Jackboot

Gaza Revolt Spreads to West Bank, Israel

As ten thousand people stood in prayer on January 15, the Al Aksa mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem was enveloped in clouds of tear gas, the steps were stained with blood, elderly worshipers slammed against walls, women clubbed over the head with riot sticks, young kids shot at with rubber bullets. For two million Palestinian Arabs, the "Holy Land" has become a hell on earth. The Gaza Strip has been turned into a huge ghetto, sealed off, subjected to a deliberate starvation policy. Soldiers systematically go from house to house, camp to camp, village to village, beating children in front of their parents, beating fathers in front of their wives and children. Young women are shot dead as they hang laundry outside their houses. Men are dragged away from their homes and families in order to be deported to places they've never seen before in Lebanon. Scores have been killed, thousands more arrested.

Deportation, starvation, religious desecration, "collective punishment" — this is the "Iron Fist," Israel's Hitlerite policy for subjugating the Occupied Territories. Yet, after eight weeks, the most widespread revolt of the bitterly oppressed Palestinian Arab masses since the creation of the Zionist state in 1948 continues with full force. Even the Israeli rulers no longer try to pass it off as simply the work of a handful of PLO "terrorists." Defense minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted that the uprising "started without instructions from outside. It came from within the people" (New York Times, 21 January). So they declare open war on the whole population.

Murderous military repression has not quelled this rebellion of despair, but only fueled it. On December 21 the Zionist fortress-state was hit from within, when for the first time the 170,000 Palestinian Arab workers who live in Israel joined 100,000 day laborers



Palestinian youth rise up against 20 years of Zionist occupation. Israel out of Occupied Territories!

from the Occupied Territories in a one-day general strike. As the New York Times (22 December 1987) reported, "the great numbers of Arab laborers who wait on tables, pick vegetables, haul garbage, lay brick and perform most of Israel's menial work stayed home." Not since the overt barbarity of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon repelled a significant

section of Israeli Jewish society has Israel seen an internal crisis of these dimensions. Even mainstream Zionist commentators like Jerusalem Post "Arab-affairs specialist" Yehuda Litani called it "the first stages of a civil uprising."

All wings of the squabbling "Labor"/Likud coalition govern-

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Paris: Trotskyists and PCF March Together Against Fascists

On January 27 throughout France the streets resounded with the slogan, "Le Pen, enough is enough!" For years one racist murder has followed another, Le Pen's fascist thugs swagger and raid, and finally the French Communist Party (PCF) launched a national call to come out on the streets against this scum. Their call to the workers of Paris also appealed to "others — organisations and individuals — for this demonstration." This could only mean the united front, march separately, strike together. And the Ligue Trotskyiste de France

(LTF) answered, "Yes, Le Pen, enough is enough! For Worker/Immigrant mobilisations to crush the fascists!" Together with the Tribune Communiste group, and delegations from other sections of the international Spartacist tendency, the LTF mobilised a contingent, 130 strong, as part of the Paris demonstration of 12,000.

These demonstrations could be the harbingers of broader actions determined to crush the fascists: or the PCF leadership could want to divert outrage against Le Pen in its ranks into a popular frontist and electoralist dead end. When

the LTF denounced the PCF presidential candidate's debate with Le Pen on national television last September, it struck a chord amongst PCF militants: they know you don't debate fascists, you combat them. For PCF members the call to demonstrate was long overdue. Many PCF militants know there is no alternative to struggle to the death against the fascists, but the PCF is a party imbued with decades of reformism. The class-collaborationist policies of the PCF saw it crawl into Mitterrand's anti-working class, anti-Soviet government, and

today the PCF leadership is still intent on getting its members to swallow a vote on the second round for Mitterrand. Le Pen owes his "respectability" to the anti-immigrant policy of police terror and the anti-Soviet campaign waged since 1981 by governments of the "left" which put wind in his sails. Supporting a new popular front means not stopping Le Pen but opening the road to him.

The rise of Le Pen's National Front and other fascist vermin in Western Europe makes even more pressing the need to crush these

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Palestinian Rebellion...

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ment united around the need to bloodily suppress the rebellion. (The so-called "Labor Alignment" is in no sense a working-class formation but rather a conglomerate of bourgeois Zionist parties.) Indeed, the Gaza rebellion, and particularly the strike by Israel's Arab citizens, was seized upon by those elements who have been pushing for forcible expulsion of the Arab population. Significant sections of Zionist ruling circles are also pushing for war with Israel's well-armed and Soviet-backed Syrian neighbor, which could well be the trip wire for World War III. In their annexationist drive to create a "Greater Israel" through conquest and occupation, the Zionist rulers are digging their own grave. In addition to the two million Arabs within Israel and the Occupied Territories, there are 100 million in the neighboring countries. But the Zionists — with their arsenal



Zionist border police in Jerusalem. Today, the Zionist rulers are turning their whole army into SS thugs.

of 200 nuclear weapons — have the means and certainly the mentality to drag the whole world down with them.

If the entire region is not to be consumed in a Zionist-engineered nuclear holocaust, the Hebrew-speaking workers of Israel must be shaken out of their chauvinism to champion the just national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and

join forces in revolutionary class struggle, to sweep away their own rulers and oppressors as well as the sheiks and colonels of the Arab East. Israel out of the Occupied Territories! For a socialist federation of the Near East!

GAZA RISES UP

The revolt was triggered on December 8, when an Israeli army

truck in Gaza rammed into oncoming traffic, killing four Palestinian laborers, as "retaliation" for the fatal stabbing of an Israeli businessman. This was no "accident" but a typical instance of the Zionist "master race" policy of "collective punishment," which exacts massive retribution for the life of every Israeli Jew. Outraged Gaza youth took to the streets with stones, emboldened by a daring hang glider attack a month earlier in which one Palestinian fighter killed six of the "invincible" Israeli soldiers in an army border settlement. The army met the unarmed youths with live ammunition and undisguised brutality.

Troops fired into a hospital courtyard — killing at least four — where several hundred people were seeking shelter from the hail of bullets, then invaded the hospital, smashing X-ray and anaesthesia equipment, beating doctors and nurses and dragging 40 people off. Palestinian youth were tied to the hoods of Israeli army jeeps and used as a "shield" against

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Free Mordechai Vanunu!

International protest must be mobilised to free Mordechai Vanunu now! The secret show trial of the heroic Israeli nuclear technician has come to a close and the verdict is expected within one to two months. For 15 months Vanunu has been in solitary confinement in Israel's notorious Shin Bet secret police dungeon at Ashkelon. Rev John McKnight, Vanunu's friend and supporter, is in regular communication with him and told Australasian Spartacist (ASp) that Vanunu remains in good health and spirits. Charged with "espionage," passing secrets and "aiding the enemy," ie, the rest of the world, Vanunu faces the death penalty for exposing the peril of Israel's nuclear arsenal of 100-200 bombs — targeted on Arab capitals and the Soviet workers state. Israel could well become the flashpoint for World War III. As John McKnight pointed out to ASp, "... the consequences of having an unstable government with weapons of mass destruction in a volatile area is just so horrific.... Syria at the moment is developing chemical weapons to counter the Israeli nuclear weapons and the world's

going to see pretty soon that either or both of those countries or neighbouring countries will be using those weapons. It's going to be horrendous."

"I AM MORDECHAI VANUNU"

Support for Vanunu has been growing throughout the world. Recently he received the Right Livelihood Award, known as the "alternative Nobel Prize," and here in Australia last October protesters arrested for demonstrating against the CIA's spy station at Pine Gap gave their name in court as "Mordechai Vanunu." At their court hearings, the Pine Gap demonstrators described the conditions of Vanunu's imprisonment and said that like Vanunu, they had violated national law in order to uphold "international law."

Australia, like Israel, is a regional vassal of US imperialism and its anti-Soviet war drive. As even the pacifist Anti-Bases Coalition, which organised the protests at Pine Gap, admitted, the facility is the largest CIA installation outside the US, monitoring Soviet movements in the South Pacific in preparation for the use of nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union. The Israeli government manufactured its own nuclear arsenal at Dimona, exposed by Vanunu, for the same purpose — you hardly need 200 nuclear warheads to take care of Syria, and Israel already possesses delivery systems capable of reaching Soviet territory.

HAWKE: REGION'S IMPERIALIST TOP COP

And what of Australia's own nuclear plans? In 1983 the Hawke government approved a plan called the Strategic Basis of Australian Defence Policy ("SB83"), which subsequently came into the hands of The National Times. Among their plans as the regional imperialist policeman was the statement, "Developments relating to nuclear capa-

bility in countries within Australia's neighbourhood should be monitored in order to ensure that the lead time for Australia could be matched with developments in other countries should government so decide" (The National Times, 30 March-5 April 1984). In other words, the machinery should all be in place, ready to roll at the slightest excuse. And like Israel, Australia worries about its total dependence on its imperialist big brother, the US: early last year the Hawke government decided to build its own top secret spy post at Geraldton on the West Australian coast, a facility that will be even bigger than Pine Gap when it becomes operational in the mid-1990s. Will the Australian mini imperialists then decide to have their own Dimona? After all, in 1974 the rabid pro-Zionist Hawke said: "If I were the Israeli Prime Minister I wouldn't give a damn about world morality — I would use the atomic bomb to protect

my own" (Blanche d'Alpuget, Robert J Hawke, a Biography).

Israel, Australia and the US are part of an unholy alliance to roll back the gains of the 1917 Russian Revolution. All humanity owes Mordechai Vanunu a debt of gratitude for his courageous exposure of Israel's nuclear arsenal. But time is running out. The Zionist terrorists who gun down Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza want Vanunu's blood. We hail the stand of solidarity with Vanunu taken by the Pine Gap protesters — there should be a world-wide outcry demanding his immediate release! The task of the international working class is to smash the international imperialist cabal through socialist revolution in order to end the threat of nuclear holocaust forever. Freedom for Mordechai Vanunu! Smash ANZUS! Down with Hawke/Reagan/Shamir anti-Soviet war drive!

Donations can be sent to: Mordechai Vanunu Trust Fund, 120 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010. Protest messages to Embassy of Israel, 6 Turrana Street, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600.■

Australasian SPARTACIST

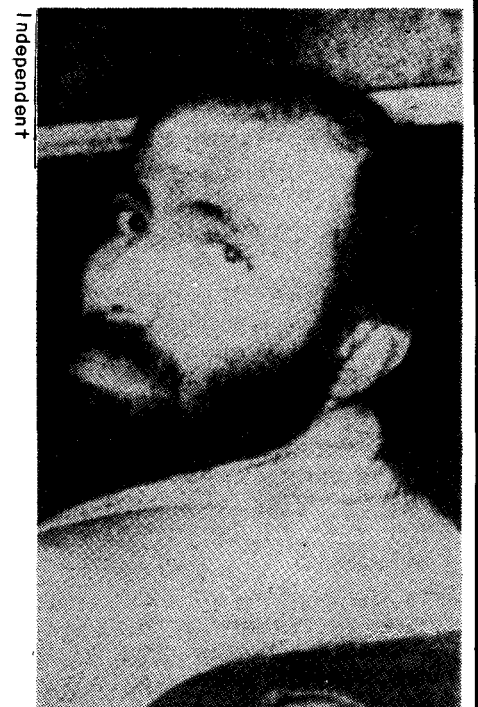
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DEMONSTRATE!

Freedom for Mordechai Vanunu!

- Israel Consulate General
37 York Street, Sydney
(near Wynyard Station)
- 10 am, Saturday
13th February

For more information contact the Spartacist League, phone: (02) 281 2181.



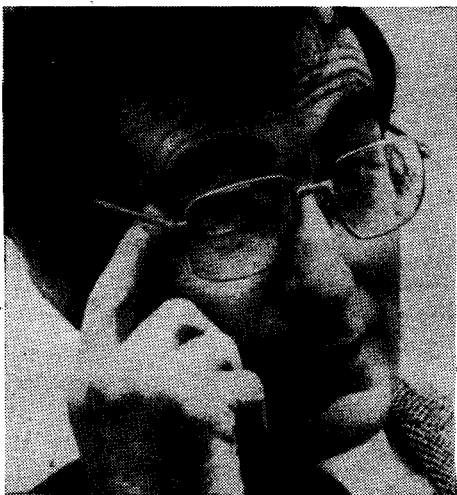
Mordechai Vanunu faces death penalty for courageously exposing Israel's nuclear arsenal.

The lie machine down at Workers News, now-weekly paper of the Socialist Labour League (SLL), was running hot again last November, churning out a three-part diatribe by Rosalba Vicari entitled "Who Are The Spartacists?" We know who the SLL are — a thoroughly crooked outfit attached to a fragment of what used to be called the "International Committee" (IC), an unpleasant fake-Trotskyist formation built by Gerry Healy in his own image until it spectacularly self-destructed in late 1985, leaving a rump under the control of Healy's one-time American lieutenant David North. In the 1970s Healy's IC had become unashamed bought-and-paid-for apologists of various Middle Eastern bourgeois regimes; the revelations that it received at least a million pounds sterling from Libya, Iraq, Kuwait, etc (with the Australian SLL getting in for its cut also), left all fragments thoroughly discredited and stinking to high heaven.

Since then North and SLL leader Nick Beams have clung to the mantle of Healyism, without the deposed "founder leader." To the extent the SLL has a coherent political program behind its characteristic wild opportunist swings in political line, it is cringing Laborism and virulent anti-Sovietism. They have gone from backing the Victorian government's thought-crime witchhunt of teacher Alison Thorne for opposing age-of-consent laws, to "critical support" to the CIA-installed Aquino regime in the Philippines, to

Faulty Beams in the House That Gerry Built

Gorbachev Sends SLL into Anti-Soviet Paroxysms



Business Review Weekly



Stalinophobic logic: For SLL, Soviet bureaucracy is "counter-revolutionary through and through," but in Australia, Gerry Hand could lead a workers government.

surprising, since the dramatic and contradictory developments in the USSR under the watchwords glasnost and perestroika are completely at variance with its Cold War view of the USSR as a dark totalitarian monolith in the unshakeable grip of an all-powerful bureaucracy that is "counterrevolutionary through and through."

jumbo. Thus only these supreme cynics could write that "For the Spartacists the central question is the reform of the bureaucracy, not the overthrow of it" and run on the facing page a large photograph of our 1983 May Day contingent in Sydney bearing a prominent placard reading: "Solidarnosc counterrevolution checked! Stalinism undermines the workers states — for Trotskyist parties to power!" According to Workers News we are "opposed to the political revolution" and supposedly support "Gorbachev's attacks on the working class and demands for increased productivity." Our article in question was quite categorical:

"Soviet workers must struggle in the name of an authentically socialist program against Gorbachev's 'radical reorganization' of the economy. A real socialist renewal in the USSR demands a proletarian political revolution to oust the Kremlin oligarchy, restoring soviet democracy and recasting the economic plan in the interests of the workers and peasants."

BEAMS' SLL IN HAWKE'S IMPERIALIST CAMP

Over the last two decades Healy and his successors have backed every anti-Soviet regime or movement surrounding the USSR, from Mao's Red Guards,

Saddam Hussein in Iraq to Khomeini in Iran. Throughout Cold War II the SLL has stood with the Afghan Islamic reactionaries and Polish Solidarnosc in the camp of Reagan/Hawke's anti-Soviet war drive. While various Cold War opportunists are now trying to have a bet each way on the popular Gorbachev, North/Beams' IC "remains the implacable enemy of the bureaucracy," in reality the Soviet workers state. Vicari claims Gorbachev's reforms "represent the bureaucracy's reaction to the threat of political revolution seen in the developments in Poland this decade." By this vague formulation, they mean Polish Solidarnosc, which they supported wholeheartedly: an openly capitalist restorationist movement bankrolled by the Vatican and the CIA who saw it as their best chance to "roll back communism" to the borders of the Soviet Union since World War II.

Being in the camp of imperialism themselves doesn't prevent these charlatans from criticising Gorbachev's pursuit of "peaceful coexistence" with it, and peddling the lie that we support this Stalinist illusion. But they don't mention Afghanistan. Gorbachev hopes an early pullout of Soviet troops would advance his pipe-dream of "peaceful coexistence." The imperialists want the victory of the feudalist cut-throats who stand for female chattel slavery, and see Soviet withdrawal as a key test of Gorbachev's willingness to make concessions. We say this would be a betrayal and that the Red Army must win the war in Afghanistan to prevent a horrible bloodbath at the hands of the Islamic fanatics. In unison with Reagan/Hawke, the SLL howls "Russians out!" as they have since 1979.

When we said that the "Kremlin tops are genuinely frightened of nuclear war and in this they reflect the mass sentiment of the Soviet people: a deep-seated, desperate desire for peace," the disgusting White Australia social-

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ATLAN-SYDRA

SLL's "Political Revolution": Polish workers bow before the Catholic Church. Solidarnosc - company union for the CIA and bankers.

crossing BLF picket lines in Melbourne while the union was being smashed in 1986. Whenever our exposure of these betrayals, especially their scabbing on the BLF, hits a nerve, Workers News comes out with a furious anti-Spartacist mini-series.

So what's bugging Beams this time? The first two instalments yield little clue, rehashing stale Healyite distortions of the Spartacist tendency's history, for the truth of which we refer readers to our international journal Spartacist, no 36-37, "Healyism Implodes." Vicari eventually gets to the point in part three, "Apologists of Gorbachev" (Workers News, 20 November 1987). The SLL, it would seem, is having political trouble over Gorbachev and the Russian Question, which is hardly

Workers News takes offence at our article "Where is Gorbachev's Russia Going?" (Australasian Spartacist no 122, September/October 1987) which reprints a section of our US comrades' recent conference resolution. The SLL essentially wants to deny the contradictions within the Soviet Union and their vehicle is this outpouring of Stalinophobic bile equating our Trotskyist defence of the historic gains of the Russian Revolution with "subservience to the counter-revolutionary Stalinist bureaucracy." To do so they employ the well-practised Healyite art of lying — shamelessly, outlandishly and above all big lies. The SLL members must swallow assertions that black is white and if they have difficulty, they don't understand the SLL's brand of "dialectical" mumbo-

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stone throwers. While old women covered from head to toe in Islamic veils broke up rocks for their children to throw, loud-speakers from a minaret blared, "God is great. Liberate Palestine. It doesn't matter how many of us get killed" (*New York Times*, 19 December 1987).

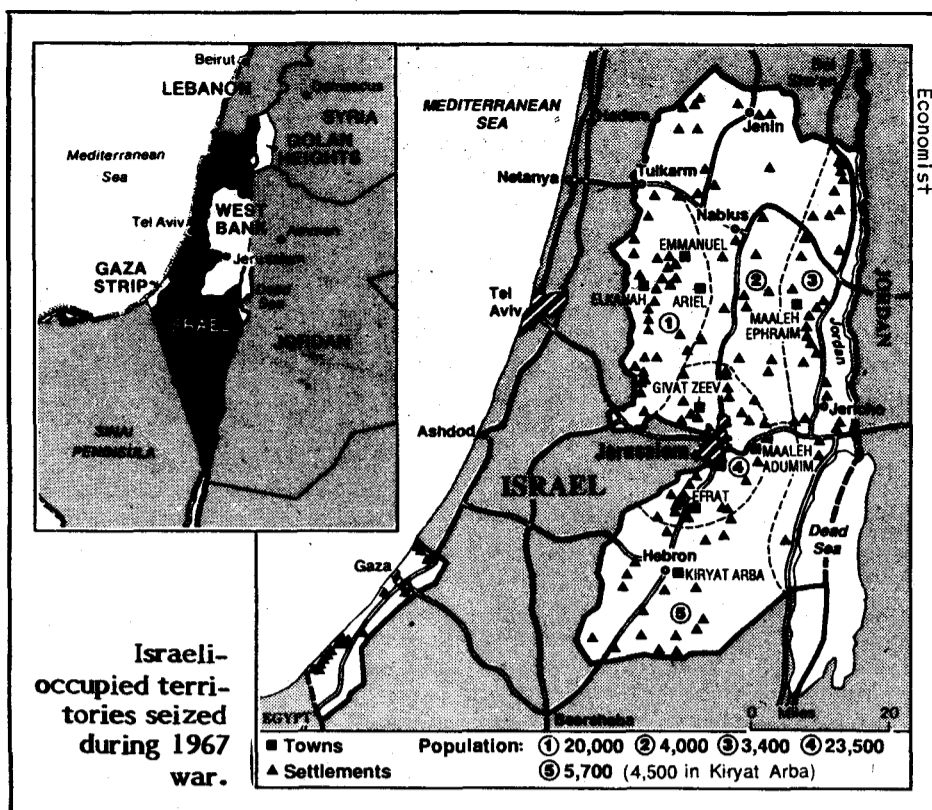
In order to counter a two-week-old commercial strike by shopkeepers in the Occupied Territories, the army has not only attempted to force the shops open at gunpoint; it has sealed off whole districts of the West Bank and virtually all of Gaza, refusing to allow even emergency food shipments by United Nations relief agencies. When Israeli Arabs donated five truckloads of food — bedecked with banners reading, "Food for the Palestinians in the refugee camps under siege and occupation" — for the residents of Gaza, the trucks were turned back.

The invasion of Al Aksa and the Temple Mount by the border police was an unprecedented provocation. *Jihads* ("holy wars") have been waged over far less. The Zionist authorities denied that they had actually entered the mosque itself, a cover-up dutifully parroted by the *New York Times* (16 January), which reported the incident as a "clash" between Israeli police and "stonethrowing Palestinians." But an Italian reporter who was inside the mosque described how he "saw soldiers enter and take more than 30 people, one by one, and beat them with batons," including an old man who was slammed against a wall and slapped around. A Canadian TV crewman saw police "force open the door and enter the women's mosque" (*Washington Post*, 16 January). With all the arrogance of their "master race" outlook, the Zionists think they can treat the third most holy shrine for 550 million Muslims around the world as though it were a police station dungeon.

For all the social-democratic rhetoric of Ben-Gurion's "Labor" Zionism, it was always based on terrorizing and driving out the indigenous Arab population from the Jewish "promised land." It is this that leads the Zionists to sound and act like Nazis. Speaking at a press conference last October, a senior officer of the West Bank military occupation regime explained that they switched from wood to hard rubber riot sticks because "The wood batons have an irritating quality, they get broken.... Their [the Palestinians'] heads become harder" (*Ha'aretz*, 14 October 1987, translated by Israel Shahak). A recent survey revealed that 29 percent of Israeli Jews support mass expulsions of Palestinians, while one in two believe that Arabs in Israel should remain "second-class citizens."

ZIONISTS DEBATE "FINAL SOLUTION"

As the confrontation escalated and spread, compelling protests from America's anti-Soviet allies among the Arab regimes, the US began openly criticizing its Israeli clients, urging them to adopt more "refined" methods of "riot



control" — the way the British army terrorizes the Catholic population in Northern Ireland — like water cannons and rubber bullets. Having just approved over \$2 billion in new aid for Israel, an increasingly frustrated Reagan administration showed its displeasure by refusing to veto a UN Security Council resolution which denounced Israel's "killing and wounding of defenseless Palestinian civilians."

On January 19, Rabin announced a "new" policy of "force, might, beatings." For years the border police have routinely broken into homes to beat Palestinians, the Shin Bet secret police routinely hang people by their hands and beat male victims in the testicles, but now the entire occupation army is carrying out massive, naked, random terror. The Americans don't like watching young kids shot down on their TV screens, rants Rabin, so we'll beat them by the hundreds in the dead of night. Arresting a youth means he "will be freed in 18 days unless the authorities have enough evidence to charge him," explains a *Jerusalem Post* military correspondent, "But if troops break his hand, he won't be able to throw stones for a month and a half." One 25-year-old Palestinian shopkeeper who was savaged by Israeli soldiers described his ordeal:

"They tied my hands and took me to the main square of Ramallah, where the soldiers gather. They didn't check who I was even though I tried to explain in Hebrew and English that I own a store.

"All the way to the square, they beat me with clubs, sticks and fists and cursed me. They broke sticks on my shoulders and head, and all the time yelled to the people around, 'Watch, watch!'

"Then they sat me next to a pile of garbage. I tried to explain I am a businessman, but they weren't willing to hear a word. They asked me to say 'Arafat's a maniac.' I refused. They kicked me in the mouth with their boots. They hit me in the back and spit on me for an hour and a half."

— *New York Times*, 23 January

Holocaust survivors witnessed such scenes when Hitler's SS stormed into the Jewish ghettos of East Europe. Today the Zionist rulers are turning their whole

army into SS thugs. And when this latest attempt at "pacification" backfires, as all the other attempts have, it will prepare the way for a much bloodier massacre. When the Israelis first implemented the "Iron Fist," during the occupation of southern Lebanon, it succeeded only in turning a previously friendly Shi'ite population into a solidly hostile mass.

It is not only rabid right-wing militarists or outright fascists like Meir Kahane who are pushing forced population transfers and expulsions of Palestinian Arabs from the Occupied Territories. The 1947-48 War of Independence was in large measure aimed at driving out the indigenous Arab populations through the sort of



A meeting of minds: White Australia anti-Soviet Cold Warrior meets Fortress Israel Zionist butchers Herzog and Shamir.

mass terror exemplified by Begin/Shamir's massacre of the Arab community of Deir Yassin. For years successive Israeli regimes have allowed or encouraged scores of fortified settlements to spring up in the West Bank (and to a lesser extent in the barren Gaza Strip). Even "liberal" Zionists today call the West Bank by its Biblical name, Judea and Samaria, accepting the "created fact" that it is already effectively incorporated into "Greater Israel."

Recently, a debate has been raging within Israel over how to win the "demographic war" — by the year 2000, the Arab population of Israel and the Occupied Territories will outnumber the roughly four million Jews — and it's quite clear the difference won't be made up by "freeing" a relative handful of Soviet Jews, who see their "land of milk and honey" in New York, not Tel Aviv. Reserve general Rehavam Ze'evi,

a self-avowed "leftist" who affirmed, "All the views I now express are those of the Labour movement," said recently:

"There is, therefore, a need to transfer all the Arabs of Judea and Samaria to across the Jordan river, by a common agreement, by a joint recognition of the two nations that by this the future will be good for both of them."

— Ma'ariv, 5 July 1987, translated by Israel Shahak

In the 25 December 1987 *New York Times*, former editor and raving Zionist Cold Warrior A M Rosenthal called for a "Jordanian Solution": "There is an almost mad irony in this struggle for a Palestinian homeland. It already exists and everybody knows it. Peace in the Arab-Israel struggle lies in building on that reality of the existing Palestinian state, which is called Jordan." He calls for an autonomous West Bank under joint Israeli-Jordanian suzerainty. (Arafat's PLO, in turn, calls for a West Bank "mini-state," which could only be a glorified bantustan.) But Rosenthal well knows that Israel is not about to surrender the West Bank. His "Jordanian Solution" dovetails neatly with plans for mass expulsion.

ISRAEL'S BANTUSTANS

The Achilles' heel of the Israeli ruling class is that they want to maintain a theocratic "Jewish state" but the economy has grown increasingly dependent on super-exploited Arab labor. For years, the dirtiest, most menial labor was forced upon the Arab-derived

Australian Jewish Times

Sephardic Jews, whose loathing for the European-centered racist Ashkenazi Labor Zionist ruling elite drove them into the arms of Begin and Shamir's right-wing Likud. Today this work is the preserve of Arab labor, as Israeli society comes more and more to resemble South African apartheid, but with a qualitatively narrower economic and population base.

The 750,000 Palestinian Arabs who are Israeli citizens — who refused to be driven out by the terror of 1947-48 — are second-class citizens in this theocratic state. Their passports are stamped with their religious affiliation — marking them as aliens within the "Jewish state" — and they are excluded from universal conscription and thus from the significant social benefits (like housing and child subsidies) which are granted only to army veterans. But the workforce from the Occupied Ter-

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AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Unsworth/Cain's "Law and Order" Disarms Decent People

Down with Gun Control Laws!

Seizing on public revulsion and horror over Melbourne's brutal Clifton Hill and Queen Street massacres which brought a death toll of 15 murder victims in less than four months last year, Victorian and NSW Labor premiers Cain and Unsworth and the Hawke government announced draconian new gun control laws in an intensified "law and order" campaign. Foreshadowed amendments to the firearms laws aim to restrict Victoria and NSW licences to only "bona fide" gun club members and those who are deemed to need them in the course of their work such as police, security guards, and farmers. A permit to purchase a gun will also be required with the applicant showing good cause why they need it. All firearms are to be registered. "Illegal" guns are to be handed in to police. Semi-automatic weapons have already been banned from use. These outrageous laws leave the guns in the hands of the cops, security guards, criminals and reactionary red-necks who inhabit the National Farmers Federation while the working class and minorities will be defenceless. Marxists oppose gun control by the bourgeois state and defend the democratic right of citizens to bear arms — for the right of armed self defence!

With an election due early this year Unsworth has run with the gun law issue. The extremely right-wing gun lobby with their crazed theory that Unsworth's laws are a communist plot are actively campaigning against the Labor Party, drawing on wide support among the farming communities. The gun lobby reactionaries have their side of the class line and predictably their "answer to crime" is "law and order" minus the gun laws — better armed cops with increased presence and powers. Augmented by Neighbourhood Watch campaigns where cops organise liaisons with citizen pimps, this current "law and order" crime campaign is aimed at leaving people feeling scared, helpless and totally reliant on the state. They go hand in hand with an intensified campaign for the death penalty run constantly in the Murdoch and Fairfax gutter rags.

HAWKE'S COLD WAR SOCIAL REGIMENTATION

The Sydney Morning Herald (22 December 1987), reported that Cain wants to "make gun ownership a privilege not a right," a privilege, that is, for the ruling class. The Fairfax press editorialises (Sydney Morning Herald, 23 December 1987) that "a high level of gun ownership will make almost any society worse off," but you can bet that Warwick Fairfax and Alan Bond have their armed bodyguards, high-tech house security and handguns. With the Hawke regime pushing social regimentation in the service of anti-Soviet war preparations, these days the "we-know-what's-good-for-you", liberal authoritarian movement takes in everything from gun con-

trol and increased censorship of films and videos to anti-sex campaigns and outlawing smoking.

The bourgeoisie is playing on the fear factor to push through its laws. Fear of madmen with guns, of household firearms and increased domestic violence. It is the capitalist system with its deepening economic crisis, in-

David Bartha



Gun control disarms workers, the oppressed and all decent people, while the armed thugs of the capitalist state are armed to the teeth.

creasing unemployment, poverty and racism, rigid family structure and straight-jacket morality that breeds the frustration and despair that erupts in violence. It is this rotting system that produced the likes of Julian Knight, the Clifton Hill mass murderer. The son of an army officer and a drop-out from military school, a vicious racist and psychopathic loser, the state trained him to kill. There is no solution to crime under capitalism but self-defence is a whole lot easier when you've got a gun. In an interview published in the Sydney Morning Herald on January 19, one of Knight's surviving victims remarked he wished he had had a gun so he could have gone after the sniper.

The state is a specially organised body of armed men, who defend class rule and jealously guard its monopoly of violence. The gun control furore in reality is not about fighting crime. Over the past decade, private gun ownership has increased to approximately 3.5 million nationally, outnumbering police weapons by ten to one (Australian, 14 December 1987). The new laws are designed to bolster the state's monopoly of armed force.

SMASH RACIST STATE TERROR!

In Australia social-democratic illusions that push subservience to the state and its armed forces stem primarily from the labour bureaucracy with its reliance on Arbitration and Hawke's anti-working class Accord. These illusions are fostered by the fake-left whose silence on the current government gun control mania amounts to a positive statement of support. There is no talk for instance of disarming the cops who are armed to the teeth, with Uzi sub-machine guns and hollow-point bullets. The Labor-loyal

Socialist Labour League even believe that cops are part of the workers movement!

There most certainly is an increase in crime in Hawke's Cold War Australia — crime that is carried out by the state! In November 1985 a 16-year-old youth, Angelo Tsakos was shot dead by a cop in Sydney after joy-riding

with a friend. The killer got off after a sham trial. The cops got a green light to mount racist terror in 1983 with the cop murder of 16-year-old Aboriginal John Pat. The killers were let off scot-free by the West Australian Supreme Court and the acquittals were openly endorsed by WA Labor premier Brian Burke. Since then there has been an avalanche of deaths of young black men in the jails, where blacks are imprisoned at 23 times the rate of whites.

It is not just the cops who target blacks. In 1982 Ronald "Cheeky" McIntosh was shot dead by a gang of nightriding white thugs in Moree in northern NSW while the cops turned a blind eye. To Aboriginals who face Apartheid-like conditions, Cold War II means intensified racist and cop terror. In January 1987 when blacks from Toomelah in NSW decided that they had had enough, and sought justice for an attack upon them by iron bar wielding punks, they were viciously slandered as "rioting black mobs" by the bourgeois media. While the racists were not charged, 17 of the Aboriginals were arrested, extradited to Queensland and face set-up charges including "riotous behaviour." Gun control will not disarm the real criminals but simply put access to the means of self defence further out of the reach of blacks and all the oppressed. For the right of armed black self defence! For mass labour/black/minority action to smash racist terror!

White Australia capitalism was built by waging a war of extermination against the Aboriginals. The brutality of frontier settlement is exemplified in the near genocide of the Tasmanian Aboriginals. In the mid 1800s the gold fields witnessed pogroms against the Chinese gold-diggers such as the massacre at Lambing Flat in

NSW in 1861. Not until the development of large cities, the return of large numbers of trained and armed soldiers after World War I, and the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution with increased industrial unrest and the formation of the Communist Party, did the bourgeoisie feel the need to disarm the population. In 1920 in NSW the ownership and use of concealed weapons was banned for private citizens.

Cops are the hired thugs of the capitalist state. They have been used repeatedly to smash workers picket lines, from the vicious police attack on union workers on the Fremantle wharves in 1919, the 1929 clash between police and miners in Rothbury, NSW in which 28-year-old miner Norman Brown was shot by cops, to their use against the SEQEB strike in Queensland and the smashing of the BLF in 1986. In 1949 Labor Prime Minister Chifley used troops to smash the Communist-led miners strike. It was Cain and Police Minister Crabb who ordered the Gestapo-style raid on BLF headquarters last October where 20 Special Operations Group "anti-terrorist" storm-troopers and over 100 cops terrorised union organisers and office workers.

"ARM THE PROLETARIAT" — LENIN

Attitudes on gun control are a question of reform or revolution. Whether or not you can abjure the use of force on principle depends on your aims. In social revolution the ruling power will go down fighting and ignorance of armed struggle will not help us. As Lenin said, in the "Military Programme of the Proletarian Revolution," (September 1916):

"An oppressed class which does not strive to learn to use arms, to acquire arms only deserves to be treated like slaves.... In every class society, whether based on slavery, serfdom, or as at present, based on wage-labour, the oppressor class is always armed. Not only the modern standing army, but even the modern militia ... represent the bourgeoisie armed against the proletariat."

In the service of the anti-Soviet war drive the Labor governments have been viciously attacking the working class. Their solution to the decay of capitalism is to make the working class pay: break the unions and drive down wages and living conditions. While the racists are emboldened by rampant "Aussie" nationalism the push is on to disarm the working class and minorities as part of the drive towards a "strong state."

Gun control kills in the service of a desperate imperialist ruling class which long ago became a bar to human progress and will seek to maintain its position through naked state terror. It is this class and its thugs which must be disarmed through victorious proletarian revolution. ■

Return to the Road of Lenin and Trotsky!

PART TWO OF TWO

The article reprinted below is Part Two of an article first printed in *Workers Vanguard* no 440, 13 November 1987, paper of the Spartacist League/US. Part One appeared in the last issue of *Australasian Spartacist*.

FOR CENTRAL PLANNING WITH SOVIET DEMOCRACY!

Under the slogan of perestroika, Gorbachev has called for "streamlin[ing] our bloated bureaucracy" of 18 million functionaries, roughly 15 percent of the working population. In his speech to the Central Committee last January, he argues that the lack of democracy has produced widespread alienation among the working class. A whole stratum, including young people, have become "cynical," only interested in "material well-being and gain by any means," work discipline is breaking down, and there is an increase in alcoholism and drugs. And all these are obstacles to economic development.

Fifty years ago, Trotsky wrote of the limits of Stalinist industrialization:

"It is possible to build gigantic factories according to a ready-made Western pattern by bureaucratic command — although, to be sure, at triple the normal cost. But the farther you go, the more the economy runs into the problem of quality, which slips out of the hands of the bureaucracy like a shadow. The Soviet products are as though branded with the grey label of indifference. Under a nationalized economy, quality demands a democracy of producers and consumers, freedom of criticism and initiative — conditions incompatible with a totalitarian regime of fear, lies and flattery."

— *The Revolution Betrayed* (1936)

Trotsky's Transitional Program presents a program for a way out of this impasse, for a "revision of planned economy from top to bottom in the interests of producers and consumers," for workers control at the point of production as the foundation of genuine workers democracy. But this program means the ouster of the Kremlin bureaucracy, which is a parasitic caste sitting atop the working class, analogous to the trade-union bureaucracy under Western capitalism.

As an alternative to workers democracy, the Gorbachev regime proposes market-oriented economic reforms. These were decreed at the June 1987 Central Committee meeting and enacted shortly after in the new Law on

State Enterprises. According to Gorbachev's program for "Fundamentally Restructuring Management of the Economy," by the end of 1990 individual enterprises will determine what they produce and in what quantities, except for the military sector. Most subsidies of prices will eventually be eliminated. Enterprise managers will be able to cut wages and bonuses, and to sack "redundant" workers.

joint enterprises and generating a new class of petty capitalist entrepreneurs will necessarily produce unemployment and inflation, fueling the internal forces pushing toward the bloody restoration of capitalism.

THE NATIONAL QUESTION IN THE USSR

Centralized planning has also been key to welding together the

troops in Afghanistan come from those areas and know very well that the October Revolution liberated their homelands from terrible backwardness.) Earlier this year, Radio Free Europe promoted a nationalist provocation in Estonia — which managed to attract all of a few hundred people.

But until political revolution restores Leninist internationalism

TASS from Sovfoto



Gorbachev and wife Raisa visit textile mill in Tallin, Estonia. Kremlin leader faces resistance to perestroika, speedup and layoffs from Soviet workers. For central planning based on soviet democracy!

If their revenues still don't cover costs, they'll be shut down.

Stalin gave central planning a bad name. The economic ills of the Soviet Union today are not the result of central planning. By ripping the productive resources out of the hands of the capitalists and landlords and overcoming the anarchy of the market, the Soviet Union was able to make the leap from a backward peasant country into a great industrial/military power in a few decades of brutal efforts. Centralized planning was a vital factor in this historic and progressive achievement. The Soviet Union has built an economy where there is a job for everyone who wants to work, free universal education, free health care. There may be infuriating shortages, but no hunger in contrast to the US where there are 20 million chronically hungry. Housing is tight — many young couples live with their in-laws — but no one lives in the street, compared to hundreds of thousands of homeless in the US.

It is the Stalinists' bureaucratic distortion of the planned economy which has brought the Soviet Union to stagnation. And dismantling central planning while wooing imperialist giants to set up

more than 100 nations and national groups which make up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The centralized allocation of economic resources has contributed greatly to substantially narrowing the once vast gulf separating the Turkic-speaking peoples of Soviet Central Asia — nomadic herdsmen only a few generations ago — from the peoples of European Russia. A factory worker in Bokhara and Tashkent receives a similar wage scale and social services as his fellow workers in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. Contrast this with Yugoslavia where "market socialism" and enterprise self-management has widened national inequality and dangerously aggravated national antagonisms.

The imperialists lust to exploit national feeling within the Soviet Union as a battering ram for counterrevolution, notably through the Zionist-orchestrated campaign to "Free Soviet Jewry" as well as through the CIA-led "captive nations" rightists. When the Red Army intervened in Afghanistan, the imperialists were salivating that Islamic fanaticism would insinuate its way among the Muslim peoples of Soviet Central Asia. (In fact, many of the Soviet

to the Kremlin, the nationalities question will remain a time bomb. Thus last December, thousands of students staged a violent protest in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan after Gorbachev ousted Kazakh party leader Dinmukhamed Kunaev and replaced him with an ethnic Russian. In his speech to the Central Committee last January,

WE AND PERESTROIKA

Incident

That day the inhabitants of Chekhov did not see a single bus in the city streets. What happened?

People got to work on foot because there was no other way. Only at noon they learned what had happened — the drivers from the garage refused to start one office to another: to the shops or work.

I did not manage to talk to all people I picked up the following:

AN EMERGENCY

What an official attitude to people and production leads to

The procurator walked through the workshop asking — what's the matter, what are you demanding, why have you stopped work? The people were obviously not wishing to speak with him. The assembly shop at the 131st bus plant had stopped its production line for nearly three whole days. The usual silence exhausted people. Both workers and administrators were probably asking themselves the question: how did we come to this?

THE CAUSES

Number of staff did not fit the number of machines. The workshop was overcrowded. The procurator's attitude was the cause of the emergency. The procurator's attitude was the cause of the emergency. The procurator's attitude was the cause of the emergency.

moscow NEWS

Recent Soviet workers' strikes challenge perestroika; Soviet press gags on calling a strike.

AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST



* For a party of workers and peasants
 * Soviet archives belong to the Soviet peoples
 Open the history books!
 * For unconditional defence of the USSR against
 imperialism and internal counterrevolution!

Gorbachev addressed the concern that the Soviet Union could be destroyed by an escalation of conflicting national claims. In particular, his regime seems to be moving toward some sort of resolution of the Jewish question, mooting a two-pronged policy: to allow the emigration of those Jews (many of them Zionists) who wish to leave; and at the same time, to eliminate the "nationality" category on internal passports, thereby facilitating the full assimilation as Soviet citizens of the vast majority of Soviet Jews who have no desire to become Israelis (or, more commonly, New Yorkers).

The Bolshevik Revolution created the basis for the full emancipation of all the nations of the former tsarist "prison house of peoples." But Stalin, with his nationalistic perspective, adapted to and revived Great Russian chauvinism. On the eve of World War II, as he was murdering the cream of the Red Army officer corps, Stalin rehabilitated the Russian Orthodox Church — a nest of anti-Semitism before the Revolution — as an instrument for propagating patriotism. When the war broke out, Stalin's policies had had such a catastrophic effect that large sections of the Ukrainian and some other non-Russian peoples actually welcomed the invading Nazis. By way of revenge, Stalin then deported entire peoples from their territories. To counter the growth of right-wing nationalism fueled by Stalin's policies, Trotsky in 1939 raised the recognition of the right of self-determination for a Soviet Ukraine. For Marxists, the democratic right of national self-determination, however justified, is subordinate to the class principle of defense of proletarian state power against capitalist restoration.

CONTRADICTIONS OF PERESTROIKA

When collective farm workers at a farm in Kazakhstan recently took advantage of the new law for election of managers by voting out a petty tyrant, the ousted director began a hunger strike at the regional Communist Party headquarters. He charged "crude violations of ... existing rules of Nomenklatura," referring to the system whereby managerial posts are filled from lists of party-approved officials (*Financial Times* 21 October).

But opposition to perestroika is not limited to fearful apparatchiks; working-class resistance is also being felt. *Moscow News* (No 38, 27 September) reported a bus drivers strike in Chekhov, about 40 miles outside of Moscow, because of a change in the system of wage payment. This was so unusual they didn't know what to call it, so the article was headlined "Incident." The bureaucracy's response was also note-

worthy: within 90 minutes they got high-ranking regional leaders down to the bus barns to cool things out, and the manager was hauled before the city party committee and reprimanded. A month later there was a report of a three-day strike at the Likino



Red Army high command, including Marshal Tukhachevsky (second from left, top). The cream of the Soviet officer corps was liquidated by Stalin on eve of Nazi German invasion.

bus plant. This time *Moscow News* (No 42, 25 October) headlined "An Emergency" and admitted to a work stoppage. Facing speedup, piece rates, "Stakhanovite" wage differentials, and the prospect of inflation and layoffs, some sections of the Soviet workers are getting "involved" over perestroika in a way that Gorbachev & Co did not intend.

Already at the time of the "trade-union controversy" in the winter of 1920-21, Lenin pointed out that Soviet Russia "is a



Nikolai Bukharin.

workers' state with bureaucratic distortions" ("The Party Crisis," January 1921, *Collected Works* Vol 32, p 48 [Moscow, 1965]). Therefore, he said, the Communists must "use these workers' organizations to protect the workers from their state, and to get them to protect our state" ("The Trade Unions, the Present Situation and Trotsky's Mistakes" [December 1920], *Collected Works*, Vol 32, p 25 [Moscow, 1965]). After more than 60 years

of Stalinist political domination of the Soviet Union, the fight for unions independent of bureaucratic control, for factory committees to institute workers control of production at the base, is a cornerstone of the fight for soviet democracy, and must be

based on defense of socialized property.

To dampen working-class distrust of perestroika, the Gorbachev regime is making a big to-do about "democratization" at the enterprise level. *Soviet Life* (August 1987) highlighted the election of a plant manager by a minibus factory in Riga (Latvia) where the winning candidate was favored by the administrative/technical staff and promised more efficiency rather than higher wages or better housing.

But there is a built-in contradiction: what happens when workers vote against speedup, layoffs and greater wage differentiation? And if they can vote for plant managers, pretty soon they will be demanding to vote for their higher-ups as well. By offering Soviet workers the semblance of democracy at the point of production, the Gorbachev regime has opened the door to the demand for actual workers democracy — the reconstruction of real soviets (workers councils) and the re-enfranchisement of the working people whose power was usurped by the Stalinists.

SOVIET ARCHIVES BELONG TO THE SOVIET PEOPLES!

At the January 1987 Central Committee meeting where Gorbachev first laid out his policies for perestroika, he linked them closely to glasnost. He noted that the causes of "the period of stagnation" go "far back into the past and are rooted in that specific historical situation in which, by virtue of well-known circumstances, vigorous debate and creative ideas disappeared." Behind this euphemistic reference to Stalin, a furious debate has been raging over questions of Soviet history. Unlike the 1956 "de-Stalinization" campaign, which soon set carefully prescribed limits, today Soviet historians, writers, journalists and

others are aggressively challenging taboo subjects. Already last winter, *Moscow News* (25 January) printed long excerpts from Lenin's Testament, including the statement that Stalin should be removed as general secretary.

Then in April the prominent literary journal *Novy Mir* (New World) published "The Brest Peace" by playwright Mikhail Shatrov. In this work, which was scheduled to open at the Vakhtangov Theatre in Moscow on November 7, Trotsky, Bukharin and Zinoviev are presented more or less historically accurately in the debates in the Bolshevik Central Committee over signing the treaty of Brest-Litovsk that took Soviet Russia out of the imperialist world war in 1918. (To buttress the case against Trotsky as an "ultraleftist", however, Lenin is ridiculously misrepresented as the father of "peaceful coexistence.") The production of this play in Moscow explodes the fabrications of the Moscow Trials, as Lenin's comrades-in-arms, vilified and slaughtered by Stalin, have ceased to be "non-persons."

Among the Old Bolsheviks, Bukharin is, as the Paris social-democratic *Liberation* pointed out, the "most easily re-integrated." Bukharin's call on peasants to "enrich yourselves," is the message some market-oriented reformers want to send today, to encourage the growth of a layer of petty capitalists. His name is associated with the New Economic Policy of the 1920s. Bukharin did not author the NEP, Lenin did — and Trotsky anticipated Lenin in proposing the "tax in kind," reestablishing an economic basis for the smychka, the alliance of the workers and peasants. But Bukharin turned this policy, necessary to recover from the ruin of the civil war and the extremes of War Communism, into a program, opposing the necessary collectivization of agriculture and insisting that industrialization would have to proceed at a snail's pace. Trotsky pointed out that the Soviet Union did not have endless time; if the urgent tasks of economic construction were not addressed, the Soviet Union would not be able to withstand the economic and military pressures of world imperialism.

After being dumped as head of the Comintern and ousted from the Politburo in 1929, Bukharin submitted to Stalin, was later named editor of *Izvestia* and even wrote the Stalin constitution two years before his execution. Thus at various points Bukharin served as the chief ideological apologist for the Stalin regime.

As far as Trotsky is concerned, however, the debate in Gorbachev's Russia is all over the map. In early July, *Moscow News*

Continued on page eight



Soviet soldiers leaving Afghanistan after Kremlin announced troops reductions (left). Spartacists (right) demonstrate against anti-Soviet war drive in Washington DC, March 1980. Defend the Soviet Union!

Lenin and Trotsky ...

Continued from page seven

editor Yegor Yakoviev wrote a long article kicking off the series "Thus We Began" in *Izvestia* (12 July) on "The First Government" of the Soviet republic. Among those who were considered "heroes and martyrs of the Revolution," he lists "Foreign Affairs — L D Bronstein (Trotsky)." On 20 September another article in the same series, by *Izvestia's* chief political commentator Aleksandr Bovin quoted at length the powerful speech by Trotsky when he walked out of the Brest peace negotiations:

"We hope — said the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs — that shortly the exploited working masses of all countries will take power into their hands like the working people of Russia have. We are removing our armies and our people from the war...

"At the same time we declare that the conditions as submitted to us by the governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary are opposed in principle to the interests of all peoples."

Equally significant was the publication in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs daily bulletin *Vestnik* (Messenger) of a photocopy of instructions by Foreign Minister Trotsky to the Soviet envoy in Scandinavia. Along with exhortations to use armistice negotiations as an instrument of revolution, the letter insists on the Bolshevik opposition to secret diplomacy: "The openness [*glasnost*] of all negotiations is for us, of course, a question of principle"

(*Christian Science Monitor*, 4 September).

All this was evidently too much for the "conservatives," and by the end of the month they counterattacked. On September 28, virulent anti-Trotskyist diatribes were published both in *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, the newspaper of the Russian Republic, and the trade-union daily *Trud*.

Der Spiegel (27 July) reported on a meeting where pandemonium broke out when Yuri Afanasyev, rector of the Moscow State Historical Archives Institute, said he was in favor of the publication of Trotsky's works. An old-timer reportedly yelled out: "You have read Trotsky and are sitting here in comfort. Do you know how many people were sent to Siberia for that?" While some information on Stalin's crimes has "trickled down" to the Soviet people, the study of the real history of the Stalin years is permitted only to a relative handful of *apparatchiks*, propagandists and academics with privileged access to the official archives. Let the Soviet people know the truth — open the archives! Soviet publications now devote pages to discussing and denouncing Trotsky and Trotskyism. Let the Soviet people judge for themselves — publish Trotsky's writings in Russia!

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION — FOR REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALISM!

The third leg of Gorbachev's policy, in addition to *glasnost* and *perestroika*, is pushing even more for "detente" with US imperialism. A summit meeting has been announced for December 7 in Washington between the Soviet leader and President Reagan, at which a treaty is to be signed eliminating medium- and short-

range nuclear missiles. The US administration has repeatedly refused to place any limits on its scheme for space-based weapons to regain nuclear first-strike capability against the Soviets. After a couple of days of back-and-forth, the Kremlin announced its acceptance of a summit without any American commitments.

Pentagon officials, meanwhile, are selling the treaty on the basis that it is Reagan's original "zero option," made in 1981 when NATO was about to deploy the Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany, only eight minutes flying time from Moscow. This plan was so advantageous to the West, requiring that the Soviets give up many hundreds more missiles than the US would, it was designed to be — and was — rejected by Moscow. Moreover, the US plans to offset the removal of Pershings by adding bombers and other weapons. Once again, "arms control" in the mouths of the Americans is a hoax serving to foster the development of new weapons systems. The Soviet Union should build and acquire whatever arms are necessary to defend itself!

The Kremlin bureaucracy is rightly frightened of the prospect of nuclear war, a fear shared by the mass of the Soviet peoples who saw their land devastated and millions killed during the civil war and again during World War II. But many in the Soviet Union understand that appeasement of the nuclear nuts in the White House is not the road to peace.

Only a very foolish person would take exception in principle to the USSR having to deal with the imperialists so long as they exist and possess important sections of this planet. But it is willful blindness — flowing from the conservative program of the Russian bureaucracy — to fail to recognize that the American imperialists are vicious, irreconcilable opponents of every revolution that has overthrown capitalist exploitation. The US military program is aimed at breaking the will of the USSR. In this context the present efforts by Gorbachev & Co to conciliate imperialism are doubly dangerous. The only road to peace lies through successful working-class revolutions that will narrow the imperialists' power base until they are finally rendered impotent. As Lenin stated in his report of the CC at the 8th Party Congress in March 1919: in the long run "it is inconceivable for the Soviet Republic to exist alongside of the imperialist states for any length

of time. One or the other must triumph in the end" (*Collected Works*, Vol 29, p 153 [Moscow, 1965]).

One thing the Democrats and the Reaganauts all agree on is that "Afghanistan is the test" of Moscow's good will. They want to force the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that strategically important country on the USSR's southern flank so that mullah-led reactionaries — who shoot down civilian airplanes with American Stinger missiles — can carry through their *jihād* against every form of social progress. Last January, Afghan leader Najibullah called for a government of "national reconciliation." Yet there never can or will be "reconciliation" with these CIA-financed feudalists who vow "death to Communism" and to all Communists.

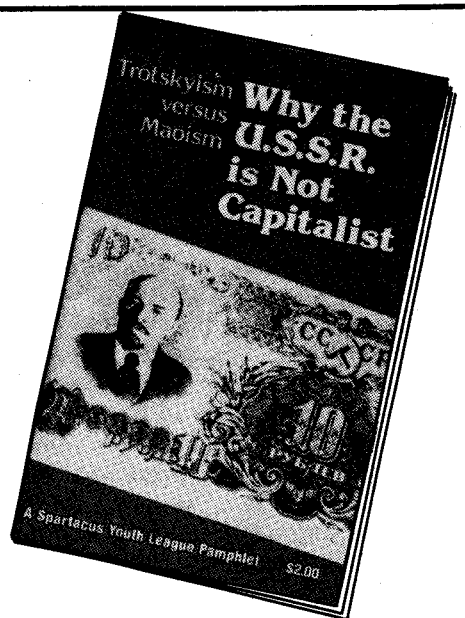
The battle lines between social progress and medieval reaction have been drawn in blood in Afghanistan, notably over the status of women. A recent revealing article in the *London Independent* (10 October) noted that the attempt by the petty-bourgeois leftist regime in Kabul to stop the selling of girl brides, liberate women from the veil (an all-encompassing head-to-toe shroud) and introduce female literacy classes was "an important factor in fanning the rural rebellion." Now, "in keeping with the new policy of national reconciliation ... aggressive campaigning for women's rights has been shelved." Yet the progress already made cannot be undone without bloodshed. Particularly in the towns, the number of women in schools and workplaces has dramatically increased; over half the students at Kabul University are women. If Gorbachev were to sacrifice Afghanistan to placate Washington, the price would be a bloodbath of Afghan women at the hands of the rabid Afghan fundamentalists.

Afghanistan became the centerpiece of Democrat Carter's anti-Soviet "human rights" campaign and the pretext for the American boycott of the Moscow Olympics. The international Spartacist tendency forthrightly proclaimed "Hail Red Army in Afghanistan!" and called to "Extend Social Gains of the October Revolution to Afghan Peoples!" This sentiment is shared by many in the Soviet Union, including notably veterans of the Afghan war who are becoming increasingly assertive. An American librarian wrote to

Explains why the collectivised economy of the Soviet Union, despite Stalinist bureaucratic degeneration, is the basis for socialist construction. Exposes the various Maoist, New Left and "Third Campist" theories of the USSR as anti-Marxist, ideologically reflecting the hostility of world imperialism to the Soviet Union.

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the New York Times (30 August) about having seen a spirited demonstration in Leningrad by Afghanistan war veterans, who laid a wreath at a memorial to those who died to defend the October Revolution during the civil war; and an unauthorized meeting of Afghan vets was reportedly held recently in Ashkabad in Soviet Central Asia.

In a recent article in Pravda reviewing readers' letters on Afghanistan one reader, the father of Sergeant Yuri Shevchenko who died fighting in Afghanistan, voiced a common complaint, asking that there be a recognition of his son's sacrifice on his gravestone: "Why can't it say that he died carrying out his international duty in Afghanistan? What are we ashamed of?" (Pravda monthly English edition, October 1987). What the Kremlin tops are ashamed of is anything that smacks of "exporting revolution," which Stalin forswore. In his speech to the 27th CPSU Congress last year, Gorbachev also denounced the "Trotskyite" heresy of "revolutionary war," adding: "Today, too, we are firmly convinced that pushing revolutions from outside, and doubly so by military means, is futile and inadmissible" (New York Times, 10 March 1986).

Contrary to those who today paint him as a "peaceful co-existence"-nik, Lenin authored the plank of the March 1919 party program denouncing disarmament under capitalism as "the reactionary philistine illusion of petty-bourgeois democrats" and calling instead for "arming the proletariat and disarming the bourgeoisie" ("Preamble to the Military Section of the Programme," Collected Works, Vol 29, p130 [Moscow, 1965]). The Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) was formally committed to achieving victory over capitalism "both in civil wars at home and in international revolutionary wars." Today it can be no different, as from Central America to Indochina and Afghanistan the imperialists are exporting counterrevolution whose ultimate aim is to dismember the USSR and "roll back" the revolutionary gains of 1917.

The futility of appeasing the relentless imperialist foes of the Soviet Union was shown by the disastrous results of Stalin's faith in his pact with Hitler. The split between Stalinism and Bolshevism is fundamental: the line was drawn in blood, not only the blood of the Old Bolsheviks shed by Stalin's terror inside the USSR, but also the blood of aborted and betrayed proletarian struggles from China to Spain to Nicaragua

or South Africa today, where the felt need of the oppressed masses for the revolutionary transformation of society cries out for intransigent revolutionary leadership.

Trotsky's conclusion, written in 1940, is valid today as imperialism prepares a nuclear Operation Barbarossa against the homeland of the October Revolution: "Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy." Return to the road of Lenin and Trotsky! ■

Palestinian Rebellion...

Continued from page four

ritories is treated as little better than slave labor; indeed, the illegal labor exchange which operates outside of the military occupation authorities is known as the "slave market."

Some 50,000 Palestinians are trucked into Israel from Gaza daily. By law they must return, South Africa-style, to their bantustan before nightfall or face arrest. They are forbidden to stay within the "green line" (the pre-1967 borders) at night except if they are locked from outside in their rooms, like animals in cages. The law guarantees them a minimum wage, but in practice they are forced to take what the rapacious employer gives them, earning as little as \$90 a month including overtime. They have deductions taken out of their pay for social security benefits (old age, illness, unemployment, etc) they are not entitled to collect — their taxes end up paying for the occupation army! On top of this, the Histadrut deducts a 1 percent "organization tax" which is simple extortion.

Despite severe military repression, these barbaric conditions have fueled a growth of trade unions among the Gaza workforce. For instance:

"In violation of a military directive prohibiting union elections, the Carpenters and Building Workers Union organized elections on February 21, 1987. Israeli soldiers, who apparently had not expected a major turnout, were posted in relatively small numbers in and around the entrance of the one and only union building in the city of Gaza. But seventy-one workers did in fact show up and, accompanied by foreign press and the leaders of the Rakah [Israeli Communist Party] bloc in the Histadrut, pushed past the sur-

prised soldiers, who could not utter more than token objections."

— Joost R Hiltermann, "Palestinian Unions — Force for Change in the West Bank," Nation, 3 October 1987

As the general strike demonstrated, Palestinian Arab labor is today an increasingly powerful force. In the West Bank, upwards of 35 percent of the workforce is organized in "illegal" trade unions — with which the employers are nonetheless compelled to deal — again largely under the influence of the Stalinists. Yet the Stalinists corral Palestinian unions into the racist Histadrut — the corporatist "labor" federation which is also Israel's largest employer — that was built through breaking Arab workers' strikes in the name of "Jewish only" labor.

Wedded to tailing nationalism and the futile search for a bourgeois-democratic solution, the Rakah simultaneously bows to Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, defending the existence of the Zionist state while supporting the petty-bourgeois nationalism of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). If nationalism is a political dead end in the best of circumstances, it is patently so in the Near East, where the interpenetrated Palestinian Arab and Hebrew-speaking peoples lay claim to the same sliver of territory.

The suicidal despair which drives unarmed Palestinian Arab youth to throw themselves at the Zionist occupation forces is the product of decades of racist provocation and degradation. But it is also the result of the absence of revolutionary leadership. The PLO preaches reliance on the Arab bourgeois regimes, which have treated the Palestinian Arab masses with scarcely less brutality and contempt than have the Zionist rulers. For 20 years the Gaza refugee hellhole was under the direct rule of Egypt. The PLO has not even attempted to organize the dispossessed masses of Gaza, instead capitalizing on the despair to recruit to its futile strategy of individual terrorism. Thus in recent years it has been the mosque which has gained increasing influence over the Palestinian masses.

There is a double tragedy in this, for not only can petty-bourgeois nationalism and, worse yet, the reactionary politics of Islamic jihad ("holy war") do nothing to free the Palestinian people from their oppressive yoke, but it squanders one of the richest potentials for revolutionary cadre in the Arab East. The Palestinian Arabs are among the best educated, most cosmopolitan peoples in the region. There is no progressive road out of the Near East quagmire short of proletarian internationalism, which alone can transcend the clash of competing nationalist claims.

The Zionist fortress-state must be exploded from within, through revolutionary class struggle. And there are fissures to be exploited, even within the virulently chauvinist Hebrew-speaking population. Not all Israeli Jews want to be like Nazis. Fifty Israeli teenagers about to be drafted into the Israeli army and then 100 reservists last week announced that they will refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. Off-duty soldiers have joined demonstrations demanding Israel out of the Occupied Territories. Last month a conference of Sephardic Jews in Israel eloquently expressed their desire for tolerance and peace with their erstwhile Muslim Arab neighbors.

On January 23, 6,000 Israeli Arabs demonstrated in Nazareth against the Israeli occupation, while 30,000 "Peace Now" supporters marched in Tel Aviv (by comparison, Peace Now mobilized five times as many against the invasion of Lebanon). The liberal Peace Now protesters chanted "two countries for two peoples" while waving Israeli flags. One kibbutznik carried a sign reading, "The occupation is bad for Zionism." But the occupation is Zionism.

There has been much talk within the Zionist regime of a punitive strike against "terrorist bases" in the Bekaa Valley as a diversion from the protests, "even if that threatens to bring in the Syrians themselves" (Jerusalem Post, 15 December 1987). A conflict with Syria could easily escalate into a world war. The Hebrew-speaking workers must break from the chauvinism of their Zionist rulers if they are to avert the deathtrap Zionism has prepared for them. The Zionist rulers will not have a thousand-year reign: none of their policies have yet brought them the "security" they murder and wage war for. But these madmen who proclaim themselves "the chosen people" are fully prepared to take the world with them if their bunker is threatened with destruction. And they have the wherewithal, as revealed by Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu — now on trial for his life for his courageous exposure of the extent of the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

With the genocidal logic of Zionism starkly revealed, in the intricate mosaic of interpenetrated peoples in this region the only progressive road lies through transcending the murderous logic of nationalism on all sides, forging revolutionary Trotskyist parties which defend the right of self-determination of both the Palestinian Arab and Hebrew-speaking nations in fighting for a socialist federation of the Near East.

— Adapted from Workers Vanguard no 443, 1 January 1988 and no 445, 29 January 1988

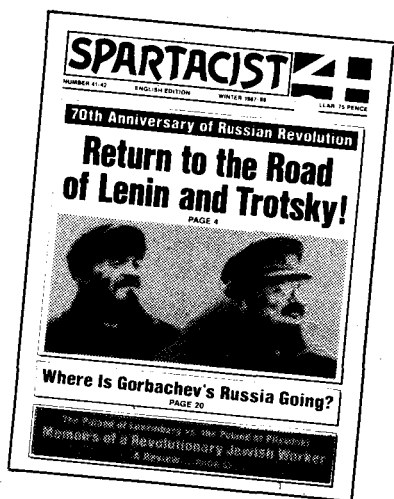
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SLL...

Continued from page three

ists of the SLL could only sneer. For them it means nothing that the USSR lost 20 million dead in World War II and has since lived under the threat of the entire imperialist nuclear arsenal (with the US bases in Australia a crucial component of anti-Soviet first-strike plans, though you'd never read it in Workers News). With Reagan and his South Pacific deputy sheriff Hawke preparing a nuclear Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union, we criticise Gorbachev's willingness to conciliate imperialism and wilful blindness to the imperialists' irreconcilable class hostility to the Soviet Union and every revolution that has overthrown capitalism.

Workers News describes the Stalinist bureaucracy as a "counterrevolutionary agency of imperialism" and their youth paper Young Socialist (December 1987) says "the Kremlin regime serves the interests of imperialism as it paves the way for capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union." So how to explain why Cuban troops and Soviet advisors play a key role in defending black Angola against the South African apartheid regime. It is the SLL's anti-Sovietism which is reactionary. We noted in "Where is Gorbachev's Russia Going?" that the Gorbachev regime is "a response to the mounting objective pressures upon the Soviet bureaucracy since the mid-1970s, centrally matching the massive military buildup of US imperialism, during a period of decelerating economic growth." And here's what Trotsky had to say in "The Class Nature of the Soviet State" (1933):

"Nine-tenths of the strength of the Stalinist apparatus lies not in itself but in the social changes wrought by the victorious revolution.... It shows us how and why the Stalinist apparatus could completely squander its meaning as the international revolutionary factor and yet preserve a part of its progressive meaning as the gatekeeper of the social conquests of the proletarian revolution."

SLL's LABORITE DIALECTIC — GERRY HAND FOR PM!

For the SLL, hating the Soviet Union goes hand in hand with their inveterate Labor-loyalism. Hawke's ALP supposedly contains a "left wing" whose historic

mission is to expel Hawke/Keating and form a workers government to introduce socialism. The SLL is really looking for a wing of the anti-communist Laborite trade union bureaucracy to tail. Usually this line only entangles the SLL in hopeless absurdities. On leading ALP "left" and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gerry Hand, Workers News wrote: "The role of Hand and the 'lefts' is to try to obstruct the first step in that path (to overthrowing capitalism) — the expulsion of the Hawke-Keating right wing and the formation by these 'lefts' of a workers government based on a socialist program." (8 January) Even Healy would have trouble working that one out.

The SLL's troubles aren't confined to the refusal of Gerry Hand and Mikhail Gorbachev to behave as Labor left-wingers and Stalinists ought to according to the Healy/North school. The 8 January Workers News announced they were cutting back from twice-weekly to weekly production. Habituated to lying, the SLL naturally says this retreat is "not an organisational retreat but is a step forward." This is a demoralising defeat for this outfit which schooled by Healy always fetishised the frequency of its fake "mass paper." For years they have wrung their members and supporters dry for monthly funds, special funds, funds to produce a daily that never happened. The shortfall they made up from their Middle Eastern benefactors, or through despicable "commercial enterprise" like printing for a time the fascistic Vietnamese sheet Bell of Saigon which was inciting contras to "kill communists" attending celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Vietnamese Revolution in 1985.

Week after week for years, Workers News screamed that the final crisis of capitalism was just round the corner, to justify their fake press frequency. Finally, when the stockmarket collapsed last October in a great crash rivalling 1929, the SLL goes backward. We wondered, could Workers News' troubles be financial — a sudden "cash-flow problem" caused by a downturn in the SLL's "commercial" dealings, perhaps related to the stock market crash? Just a thought.

Beams typically blamed it all on Healy. Healy transformed the British Workers Press "into a centrist organ, the News Line, in 1976" and was behind Workers News going twice-weekly in 1978 as part of a "concerted campaign throughout the ICFI to shift the sections off their Trotskyist foundations." Where was Beams and the SLL then? Answer: flogging their ranks forward for Healy's "concerted campaign," reprinting from Healy's News Line criminal apologetics for the murder of communists by the Iraqi Ba'athist colonels, and treacherous attacks on British miners' leader Arthur Scargill's opposition to Polish Solidarnosc, which gave ammunition to a Cold War witchhunt of the miners on the eve of their heroic 1984-85 strike. We fully expect Beams' corrupt and rabidly anti-Soviet SLL to continue to be haunted by the ghost of Healy. After all, for an organisation built and maintained on big lies and seemingly unfulfilled prospects of big money, reality can be fatal.■

Paris Demo ■■■

Continued from page one

racist murderers through mass, militant working class actions.

We reprint below the LTF's leaflet for the demonstration.

LE PEN — ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

For worker/immigrant mobilizations to crush the fascists!

Full citizenship rights for immigrants!

On Wednesday, 27 January, the anniversary of the date the victorious Red Army liberated the Auschwitz extermination camp, Le Pen, the fascist gang leader for whom the massacre of Jews in the Nazi gas chambers is a "detail", will appear on "The Hour of Truth" to push his call for racist murder. At long last, the PCF is calling for protest demonstrations across France, expressing the hope that they will be joined by "others — organizations and individuals — for this demonstration." Yes, Le Pen — enough is enough!

Like the hundreds of thousands of Communist militants, the Ligue Trotskyite is pleased to see mass working-class mobilizations against the fascists. After the victory of the Antilles' anti-fascists in December, it is high time the Lepenite scum was given a taste of the social power of the organized working class. The LTF, together with the Tribune Communiste group, calls on workers, youth, immigrants, Jews, homosexuals, all those targeted by the National Front stormtroopers, all anti-fascists to participate in the 27 January demonstrations and to join our contingents in Paris and Rouen. Le Pen, enough is enough! Mass working class demonstrations are needed to crush the fascists before they crush us!

The fascists' first target is immigrant workers and their families. Worker/immigrant defense groups based on the unions must defend the factories and immigrant neighbourhoods against the fascist goons! But you can't mobilize immigrant workers for that kind of action behind the slogan "Produce French." We must demand full citizenship rights for immigrant workers and their families, and wage a relentless struggle against all forms of racist segregation and discrimination.

Ever since 1981, Mitterrand's anti-Soviet, anti-working class and anti-immigrant popular front has paved the way for reaction and the fascists. Four times, that's enough! We must break the infernal cycle of popular front/reaction, build a revolutionary party which fights for a real workers government to expropriate the bourgeoisie, to undertake the socialist reconstruction of France in the framework of the Socialist United States of Europe and to inflict the fate of the Russian pogromist Black Hundreds on Le Pen's gangs.■

Bicentennial...

Continued from page twelve

television viewers that Whitlam was overthrown by the CIA, with the help of British Intelligence, Hawke was the front-runner in an

Australian media campaign of cover-up denials and pillorying of Pilger himself. Also going goring Hawke's ox was Pilger's forthright condemnation of Australian Apartheid and his insistence that cops were murdering blacks in jails.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Igor Rogachev, accused the Australian government of "shameless racial discrimination" (Australian, 10 December). The Anti-Slavery Society in Britain has filed a report on Aboriginals and the United Nations has been advised that Aboriginals are subject to violations of even the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Hawke's government fears exposure of its racist policies, and has presented gestures of empty and pathetic "concern," including a vague offer of a "treaty" to blacks which will not be worth the paper it's printed on. The Royal Commission into Black Deaths has finally begun, and already is proving itself to be a whitewash. Grasping for ways to look good, Gerry Hand, "Minister for Aboriginal Oppression" did the ultimate in cynical manoeuvres and promised to boycott all Bicentennial events. But the reality is too stark to cover up: the killing of Aboriginals in the state's jails and in cop custody goes on, reaching over 100 deaths since 1980. For the Bicentennial, NSW cops in country towns have been issued with riot gear which they use to terrorise blacks in their homes and in the streets. The Queensland government re-opened the "Black Hole" in the notorious Boggo Road prison specifically for black protesters. And the bourgeois press is feeding this campaign of terror which is the reality behind the government's lies, with articles inciting fear of Aboriginal riots.

The brutal oppression of the Aboriginal people exposes Australia as one of the most racist countries in the world. Like South Africa and Israel, it is a "master race democracy," but one in which the existence of bourgeois democracy and prosperity are premised on the near-total exclusion of all other races. And like South Africa and Israel, White Australia is not only reactionary, but historically doomed.

The march of 20,000 Aboriginals on Australia Day briefly changed the colour of Sydney. This historic march of blacks from all around the country, organised by the Uniting Church and demagogic pseudo-nationalists like

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AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Gary Foley, came out of the anger Aboriginals feel against their treatment as tenth-rate citizens. However, the preachers and Foley seek to channel this anger into the cul de sac of pressure on this racist government for "constitutional recognition." Well, Aboriginals got the vote in 1967, and have seen no advancement in their conditions since then.

The march organisers' intention to keep it clean for Bob and Gerry was underscored by attempts to segregate the march racially and prevent labour movement participation with an explicit ban on left-wing salesmen. Despite this, a team of Australasian Spartacist salesmen fought for our right to sell, and sold an impressive 36 subscriptions and over 100 literature packets and single issues, reflecting an openness to our program for labour/black defence squads to stop racist terror, and for the overthrow of White Australia capitalism. Ever Labor-loyal and cravenly tailist, the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party and the pro-Moscow Socialist Party meekly capitulated to the ban on literature sales. The Socialist Party's Guardian (20 January) approved the pressure tactic nature of the rally "to lobby the Hawke government to meet its responsibilities towards the Aboriginal people," and went on, "If Japan had successfully invaded this continent on January 26, 1943, would Australia still be holding a 'birthday party'?" Feeding right into the government's anti-Asian nationalism, the likes of the SPA could hardly begin to put forward a program of struggle against racism inside Australia.

Anti-Asian racism is inseparable from oppression of Aboriginals. Thus Charles Perkins, the Aboriginal permanent head of the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs, met with applause from Bruce Ruxton, notorious white racist head of the Returned Services League, when he called for a halt to immigration from South East Asia. Perkins' outrageous call can only fuel white racist terror, but he knows which hand feeds him.

FOR WORKERS REVOLUTION TO SWEEP THIS CONTINENT CLEAN

"The problem is that we have no social power," said Paul Coe of the Aboriginal Legal Service. This statement is tragically true. It is the working class, the only progressive class in capitalist society, which has the social power to smash White Australia capitalism. The obstacle to mobilising that power is the Laborite bureaucracy which serves as capitalism's policeman of the working class, feeding ruling class nationalism with racist protectionism. Elementary defence of democratic rights for Aboriginals requires a break from the ALP, the party of White Australia par excellence. What is urgently necessary is a revolutionary workers party which will be built in the struggle to split the working class base of the ALP from its capitalist-loving tops and fight for revolutionary integrationism — full social equality for blacks, and all oppressed minorities. Smash White Australia capitalism! For a racially integrated workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!■

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1988

Lankan Garment Workers Extend International Solidarity Greetings

Of the many letters and expressions of support for Cockatoo Island militant and Spartacist supporter Neil Florrimell, the letter printed below from women textile workers in the Magnum Branch of the All Ceylon Commerce and Industrial Workers Union was especially gratifying. These Sinhalese women, working in the Free-Trade Zone in Sri Lanka, are brutally exploited to provide super-profits for Western and Japanese capitalists.

Florrimell was sacked on 1 September last year as the Hawke regime and Cockatoo Island management sought to make this strategic defence site "safe" for union busting and the anti-Soviet war drive. Over 100 Federated Ironworkers Association (FIA) members struck for two weeks to win his job back. The island teetered on the brink of a total shutdown until the struggle was sabotaged by the CIA-loving FIA bureaucrats and the Island Shop Committee.

In 1985, the Spartacist League/ANZ collected strike funds for the mainly women textile workers of Magnum Garments Ltd, who were fighting for payment of a previously won wage rise. The strikers warmly appreciated this concrete expression of international proletarian solidarity. It is crucial that workers in Australia forge fighting links

International solidarity: meeting of Magnum Garment workers on 10 February 1985 to receive donations from Australian trade unionists collected by Spartacist League.



Spartacist League/Lanka

with the workers of Asia as an essential element in the struggle to blow up white racist Australian imperialism from within through workers revolution. For a workers republic of Australia, part of socialist Asia!

Sri Lanka
Ratmalana
03.11.87

Comrade Neil,
Australia

Dear Comrade,

We are informed that you who were faced with dismissal threats in the past, had now been dismissed from your job altogether. We are aware that the reason for the same is the struggle launched by you on behalf of the working class against victimisation and the

exploitation. You are in the forefront of the national struggle for the emancipation of the women workers such as us who worked in the Magnum Garments. In your own country just as in Sri Lanka the questionable programme of the trade union leadership has undoubtedly helped the employers to dismiss militant trade unionists.

Even though they were able to throw out a single worker like you, the capitalist class cannot exist without the working class. We are solidly behind you step by step in the courageous and historic struggle you have launched.

Comradely,
K D P Amanalatha
Secretary
All Ceylon Commerce and
Industrial Workers Union
(Magnum Branch)

Protest Hawke's Murderous Deportations!

2 FEBRUARY: Two more Tamils are now on Hawke's deportation list following the deportation of three Lankan Tamils from Sydney on 6 January and four from Perth three days later back to the bloody communalist horror of Hawke's anti-Soviet ally, J R Jayewardene's Sri Lanka. This potentially murderous act was a calculated statement to the world that the Cold War Hawke regime plans its Bicentennial to be an obscene "celebration" of the 200 year history of racist White Australian capitalism. The government, in a bid to prevent any defence of the Tamils, secretly imprisoned those in Sydney in the high-security Villawood Immigration Detention Centre for nine months, barring access to the media and the local Tamil community. Immediately we discovered this atrocity, the SL/ANZ protested the Tamils' imminent deportation with a telegram to Immigration Minister Young, demanding "Political Asylum for Tamil Refugees" and "Down with Racist Immigration Laws!"

In 1985 the SL/ANZ joined in a successful campaign to stop the deportation of Tamil refugee Roben Arurnugam Alahantham. The Victorian branches of the Building Workers Industrial Union and Waterside Workers Federation also protested. It is vitally necessary for the working class, which has the social power and the class interest, to defend the rights of Tamils and all those fleeing from reactionary terror against the vicious racism of the Hawke regime.

The four Tamils deported from Perth were reprieved in Malaysia with temporary visas giving them the chance of asylum in India. The Tamils deported from Sydney were denied even that. The government had vindictively stamped their passports "No Stop-over in Singapore." These three have since disappeared in Colombo. It is truly indicative of this viciously white racist country that even the UN Commissioner for Refugees said that the Australian government is the only "Western" country that deports Tamils to Sri Lanka.

Hawke cynically defended the deportations:

"If we have a position where some people can just fly in and say 'Here we are, now you must keep us because if you don't we will be hurt when we go back,' you make a mockery of an orderly immigration system."

— Australian, 8 January

Hawke does not even bother to deny that he sent the Tamils back to likely torture or murder. He and his Immigration Minister Young are signalling a vicious crackdown on "illegal immigrants" highlighted on 18 January when two Iranian seamen, seeking to escape reactionary mullah-run

Iran, were interned in Villawood, threatened with deportation and victimisation in Iran. Meanwhile, Hawke is up to his neck in the phoney and sinister Zionist-led imperialist attempt to force the emigration of Soviet Jews. Indeed, anti-communists and reactionaries of all stripes are welcomed with open arms by this Cold War Labor government. But Lankan Tamils or Irian Jayans from Indonesia are invariably sent back to their tormentors. Not only are they from Asian countries but they are fleeing the terror of Hawke's regional anti-Soviet allies.

It is crucial for the working class to take up the struggle against racist oppression, demanding full citizenship for all foreign-born workers. This requires a break, through hard class struggle, from the White Australia Laborite bureaucracy whose racist protectionist poison works hand in hand with the government's murderous clampdown on immigration. Only with the forging of a Bolshevik leadership can the power of the organised working class be wielded on behalf of all the oppressed and exploited to overthrow this decaying racist Australian capitalist system once and for all!■

Spartacist League

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Hate Hawke – Hate the Bicentennial!

Bread and Circuses to Sell Racist Australian Imperialism

The spotlight was on Australian Apartheid as 20,000 Aborigines plus thousands of whites marched through Sydney for "Justice, Hope and Freedom" on 26 January in an unprecedented demonstration. It put the lie to the multi-million dollar Bicentennial circus presented by the Hawke and Unsworth Labor governments to sell the myth of a free, democratic and prosperous Australia.

The bourgeoisie is celebrating the founding of what Engels described as a "United States of deported murderers, burglars, ravishers and pickpockets" and 200 years of killing Aborigines, racist exclusion of Asians, exploitation of workers, oppression of women and minorities — in short, everything that is detestable about this white imperialist enclave. It's an insult to all decent people. We agree with rock and roll columnist, "Dr Vern Pullen" who wrote in *On the Street*, (20 January), "there have to be a lot of people out there who share exactly the same feelings, the same fist-shaking contempt for the monstrous, foul smelling, dollar hungry, pox ridden, drunken, jingoistic, racist, sexist great bag of regurgitated historical emu shit that is the Bicentenary."

Novelist Patrick White rightly gained favour with the Australian

Tasso Barabulisi



Millionaire Alan Bond, friend of Chilean Butcher Pinochet and prime minister Hawke, contributes \$12 million to obscene racist "celebration of a nation."

population for deriding the Bicentennial guests of honour, Prince Charles and Lady Diana as "royal goons," whilst noting that there are "so many dishonest politicians about, legislating to get monuments to their own glory" (*Australian*, 25 January). The Labor Party government leaders, federal and state, rightly claim the 200 years of rapacious White Australian capitalism for their own. NSW Labor Premier Unsworth is staking his widely-hated government's chances of reelection on the Bicentennial extravaganza. Every time you walk into a shop, turn on the television,

ride the bus, tall ships, Bicentennial logos, jingles and souvenirs have taken over. "You made this state great" blares from every billboard and radio in NSW. Tell it to the homeless and the 25 per cent of the population who live on miserable social welfare handouts. There is nothing great for the working class whose real wages have been driven down ten per cent under Hawke, whose unions have been busted while working conditions have seen one giveback followed by another. Unemployment has remained high around eight per cent, with youth unemployment as high as sixteen

per cent. While the bourgeoisie ostentatiously flaunt the greatest post-war redistribution of wealth carried out by the Hawke government, into the hands of the rich, the working class and poor are supposed to make do with bread and circuses.

ALP - PARTY OF WAR AND DEPRESSION

The history of White Australia has assigned the ALP the role of capitalism's policeman during periods of war and depression. In Cold War II, Hawke, "together forever" with the lame-duck Reagan regency, has sought a frontline position in imperialism's anti-Soviet war drive. "Soviet Spy planes over Australia" headlined the *Australian* (25 January) quoting Air Marshal David Evans, ex-RAAF chief: unidentified jet contrails at 30,000 feet sighted over Darwin "could belong to long-range Soviet Bear Surveillance aircraft operating out of Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam or long-range business jets carrying illegal migrants." Anti-communism has always gone hand-in-hand with a deep-seated fear of the Asian "hordes" for the Australian bourgeoisie. It fought the inter-imperialist Pacific War against Japan as a racialist war, and was an eager advocate for and British participant in the wars against the "yellow" and "red" threats in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The Hawke government is desperately worried about the threat to the US bases in the Philippines, about Japan's greater economic role in the Pacific as it is about Indonesia's Suharto regime reaching its end. Increasingly scared and therefore more vicious, Australian jackal imperialism is clinging ever closer to the US big brother as Reagan goes down, and simultaneously undertaking the biggest peacetime military build-up since World War II.

Doomed to dependence on bigger imperialist powers for protection, Australian imperialism is a lackey. Whitlam's sacking in 1975 for raising questions about the strategic US war bases in Australia proved it, and Hawke learnt this lesson well. So when expatriate Australian journalist John Pilger recently told British

Continued on page ten



Sydney, Racist White Australia Day, 1988: In historic demonstrations 20,000 Aborigines from around the country protest Australian Apartheid.