



## U.S. Starvation Embargo Lifted

# Defend the Vietnamese Revolution!

After 19 years of vindictive economic sanction against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists—defeated on the battlefield by the Vietnamese workers and peasants—have lifted their trade embargo. It is a good thing that this punitive embargo against the Vietnamese deformed workers state has been lifted. However, the Clinton administration's action occurs in the context of an imperialist drive to destroy the gains of the Vietnamese Revolution from within—i.e., through the potential massive influx of foreign in-

vestment and concomitant pressure on the ruling Stalinist Communist Party to extend and deepen its experiment with "market socialism" and ultimately to surrender state power to the imperialists and their local henchmen.

The debt owed by the international proletariat to the Vietnamese Revolution is massive: during the dirty genocidal war waged by the U.S. imperialists and their junior Australian partners, the Soviet Union was able to gain rough nuclear parity. Indeed, from the standpoint of

American imperialist militarism, probably the greatest casualty of the Vietnam War was the loss of strategic nuclear superiority over the Soviets. With the American war machine bogged down in the swamps of Vietnam, Brezhnev was able to greatly accelerate the Soviet strategic weapons program. As our U.S. comrades wrote in 1980:

"If today the Soviet degenerated workers state has attained rough strategic nuclear parity with U.S. imperialism (for revolutionaries, a very good thing), we should remem-

ber this was bought with Vietnamese blood. For seven years the revolutionary workers and peasantry of Vietnam, a poor country of some 40 million people, fought *alone* against the greatest military power on earth."

—"That Was the Detente That Was," *Workers Vanguard* No. 253, 4 April 1980

Hundreds of thousands of youth around the world were radicalized by the long years of the war which as well called forth acts of working-class solidarity with *continued on page 8*



Ronald Haerberle - Time Life Picture Agency



Demulder/Gamma-Liaison

Left: My Lai 1968. Imperialists killed two million Vietnamese in dirty colonial war. Right: victorious NLF/DRV troops roll into Saigon, 30 April 1975.

## New World Disorder: Australian Capitalism Against the Wall

# For Internationalist Working-Class Action — Not Protectionist Poison!

When Paul Keating attacked Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as "recalcitrant" for refusing to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle last November, the ensuing diplomatic crisis was front-page news for weeks. The arrogant Keating was forced to make known his "regrets" for the incident, with polls showing both that two-thirds of the Australian population believed the big-mouthed PM should apologise to his offended Malaysian counterpart and a marked nosedive for Keating's personal rating. The Malaysia row also provided a snapshot of the problems of this white imperialist enclave as the Australian bourgeoisie seeks to "enmesh" within the Asian Pacific region.

It was moderately satisfying to see Keating taken down a notch for his bullyboy ineptitude, but the fight over Malaysia's refusal to attend the APEC conference reflected broader forces at work. The counterrevolutionary

destruction of the Soviet degenerated workers state and end of the Cold War has meant the unravelling of the post-World War II anti-Soviet alliance, laying bare the permanent rivalry between the various imperialist powers. New World Disorder is marked by the coalescing of rival trade blocs—the U.S.' NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), Japan Inc.'s ambitions for a renaissance Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and the German-dominated European Union. Malaysia has been the foremost spokesman for an Asian trading bloc led by Japan and Mahathir's refusal to attend the Seattle conference must be seen in this light. In turn, Keating's evident fury over the Malaysian stance on APEC has plenty to do with Australia's pro-U.S. allegiance in this instance (as well as its own ambitions within Asia).

As our American comrades wrote in *Workers Vanguard* (3 December 1993): "The mounting trade warfare between the

imperialist powers is reflected in their bitter conflicts in the so-called Uruguay Round negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which must be concluded by a U.S.-imposed December 15 deadline. Clinton turned last month's Seattle meeting of the heretofore obscure Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum into a sounding board for his proposal for a Pacific Rim 'free trade zone.' The *New York Times* (19 November) reported that 'part of the Administration's strategy is to use the spectre of an Asian trading agreement as a spur—some say a threat—to the European Community....'

Meanwhile, the managing director of the premier voice of Japanese business, the Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organisations), warned that APEC could be used to turn the Pacific into an "American lake," noting "There is great resistance in the Asian ranks, especially in ASEAN, to having the tempo for a free trade and investment imposed through the forum of APEC" (*Australian*, 19 January 1994). Despite official endorsement of APEC by the Japanese government, sections of the

ruling class take a less sanguine view of the U.S. role.

During a trip to Tokyo in May, Mahathir lobbied for his preferred Asian trading body, the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), which would exclude both the U.S. and Australia, while including Japan. However, the Japanese rulers have an ambivalent attitude; "both relieved and embarrassed" was the *Japan Times*' (18 November 1993) description of their reaction to the U.S.' aggressive commitment to APEC. It further explained:

"In 1989, when then Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke originally floated the idea of such a forum for the Asia-Pacific region, he apparently did not have either the U.S. or Canada in mind as possible members. Japan endorsed his proposal, but only on condition that North America be included. Tokyo also played a leading role in persuading skeptical Asian nations to join...."

"Tokyo's moves reflect not only the importance Japan attaches to its relations

*continued on page 10*

## Nazi Skinheads Routed in Northcote, Melbourne!

We print below the Spartacist League leaflet of 29 November 1993 entitled: "Nazi Skinheads Routed in Northcote, Melbourne! For Trade Union/Minority Mobilisations to Sweep the Fascists Off the Streets!" Over 2,000 leaflets were distributed in the working-class and heavily immigrant Melbourne suburbs of Northcote, Preston, Coburg and Brunswick as well as to an AIDS memorial vigil in St. Kilda, a South Pacific Islander festival, a well-known Jewish meeting place, maritime union mass meetings and to participants at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference held in Wollongong. In every case, working people welcomed the news that the Nazi scum had been humiliated and put on the run.

A month after the Northcote demonstration, the cringing reformists of the International Socialist Organisation (ISO), organised a "petition-the-Nazis-to-death" march in Brunswick on 18 December which ultimately served to embolden the fascists. Petitions for everything from begging Keating to do the right thing over Aboriginal rights, to pleading the government to stop cuts in student loans, to calling for the sacking of racist cops is a stock-in-trade of the ISO. This time, it launched a petition campaign calling on the publican of the Sarah Sands Hotel in Brunswick to "ban" known fascists and Nazi regalia from his pub.

This "tactic" is of a piece with the core strategy of the ISO and its British co-thinkers in Tony Cliff's Socialist Workers Party (SWP): i.e., wretched appeals to the capitalist state, courts, cops to "ban" or otherwise spike the fascists. Even as militant youth were looking for a way to smash the British National Party (BNP) scum in Britain last October, *Socialist Worker* pushed as its main demand that the local council close down the BNP headquarters. Strenuously opposing such calls, Leon Trotsky wrote: "To turn to the state, that is, to capital, with the demand to disarm the fascists means to sow the worst democratic illusions, to lull the vigilance of the proletariat, to demoralise its will." The capitalist state—its cops, courts, government institutions (run by Labor and Tory alike)—exists to protect the wealth and power of the capitalist class. Reliance on either the likes of the Labor mayor of Brunswick in Melbourne or the Tory council of Bexley in London is criminal and suicidal: so-called "anti-fascist," "anti-extremist" laws passed by the state are used not against the fascist scum but against the left, workers movement, minorities who would interdict them.

On 18 December, some 150 protesters gathered at Brunswick Town Hall, with the ISO planning the presentation of its pitiful petitions to the publican as the

centrepiece of the event. We in the Spartacist League mobilised a militant contingent sharply politically counterposed to the ISO's craven program. Our placards and chants proclaimed: "No wretched appeals to the capitalist state! For trade union/minority mobilisations to sweep the fascists off the streets!", "Not petitions to ban the fascists, but worker mobilisations to crush the Nazi scum!" and "ALP: racist, anti-immigrant, pro-capitalist!"

A block away from the town hall, some two dozen National Action fascists waving blue Eureka and Australian flags strutted and spewed their racist anti-Asian filth. Predictably, Kennett's thugs in blue had mobilised, including with mounted police, to protect the fascist scum. The ISO tamely led the demo past the fascists to the Sarah Sands where the manager told the marchers what he had previously told the local press: Nazi symbols would not be allowed in the hotel. The ISO proclaimed this—a statement that skinhead fascists must remove their swastikas before strutting into the Sarah Sands—a "great victory"! And what about the nativist fascists who keep the swastikas in the closet while waving Eureka flags and other Australian nationalist symbols? Furthermore, it was only at the last moment and presumably under some pressure from disgruntled elements in its orbit that the ISO ditched its plans to turn over the petitions—containing the names and addresses of anti-fascists—to this publican.

While the ISO's newspaper *The Socialist* proclaimed that the Brunswick rally had "shown how to deal with the Nazis," unfortunately for the intended victims of the skinhead swine, it showed most of all the base reformism of this self-proclaimed "socialist" outfit. Not long after the ISO's Brunswick antics, National Action thugs were reported swaggering through city streets in Melbourne, boasting of their victory over the "red scum." (After Northcote, at least, the Nazi punks were in no condition to swagger anywhere.) What's necessary to drive the fascists back into their rat holes is mass, militant mobilisations of the organised workers movement and minorities. That requires a revolutionary leadership with the program to lead such battles, on the road to the smashing of the whole rotting capitalist system.

We have successfully implemented the strategy of labour/minority mobilisations from Germany to the U.S. (see Springfield article, back page) and here have been able to demonstrate in an exemplary fashion the power of such a program when in May we organised Aborigines, students, leftists and trade unionists in direct action to smash a racist ban at the Student Prince Hotel in Sydney. The international working class needs a

**Spartacists oppose reliance on state at ISO-called "anti-fascist" march in Brunswick.**

Bolshevik party: not one led by those who would lick the boots of the capitalist state!

On Saturday, 20 November a small gang of Nazi skinhead scum was swept from the streets of Northcote, a heavily immigrant and working-class suburb in Melbourne's inner north. Two hundred anti-fascist demonstrators had come out in a march organised by the Action Against Fascism group to remove racist graffiti from the walls of a local Greek Orthodox monastery. Twice the Nazi punks attempted provocations against the anti-fascists; the second time these strutting, swastika flag-waving filth were relying on the protection of the cops. But the anti-fascists put the Nazis on the run and decisively repulsed the fascist provocation. A number of Nazis were acquainted with the pavement. *This is a good thing—it is time that the fascists go in fear!* Supporters of the Spartacist League were proud to participate in the defence of the demonstration. As we chanted on the march: workers, leftists, minorities—crush the Nazis in the egg!

In calling the demonstration, anti-fascist activists in Northcote reported a recent upsurge in fascist activity in the area ranging from wall graffiti to acts of intimidation and terror especially targeting the sizeable local Asian population. And days before the march, a car belonging to demonstration organisers was trashed. The anti-fascist demo brought out a cross-section of the Nazis' intended victims, including leftists, Asian youth and students, a contingent of Jewish youth, gays and lesbians. Importantly, a small contingent of trade unionists, mainly from the Maritime Union, acted as march stewards.

As the demo lined up, five swaggering Nazis marched through the side of the rally and began waving the swastika and taunting demonstrators. Anti-fascist militants outraged by this vile, threatening spectacle soon found out that it was the official policy of most of the organisers and stewards to do nothing about the Nazi provocations unless or until the march itself was attacked. Had this policy won the day, it would have been a real victory for the Nazi skinheads—further emboldening them to escalate their campaign of race-terror. Scandalously, the official leadership policy of the largest left group in attendance, the Cold-War Laborite "socialists" of the International Socialist Organisation (ISO) was also to ignore the Nazis. But, the ISO et al.'s do-nothing policy in the face of the skinhead provocations did not prevail. When the Nazis tried it on against the demonstration a second time, the crowd surged after them, chasing them up the street and routing them.

Following this successful mobilisation against the Nazi filth, radio news reported that the police had threatened future arrests of participants in the 20 November demonstration while the media meanwhile made lying claims of "police injuries." The Spartacist League demands: *No charges, no victimisations against anti-fascist militants!*

Today, the growth of fascist skinhead activity in Australia is but a pale reflection of what has happened in Europe in



ASp Photo

the aftermath of the destruction of the East European and Soviet deformed and degenerated workers states. Fuelled by intensified interimperialist rivalry and the triumph of counterrevolution, the fascist menace has reared its head and has been met with protests by tens of thousands of young people from London to Rome. Here, Keating's Labor government presides over grinding unemployment, racist backlash in the wake of the *Mabo* High Court decision and the racist xenophobia which is the bedrock of this white imperialist enclave in Asia with its quickly growing Asian population. In these conditions, the fascists have begun to crawl from their rat holes, seeking to feed off the decaying capitalist system. The deadly results of their race-hate trade is known: in 1990, a Chinese taxi driver in Perth was the victim of an overtly racist murder; three Chinese students were killed the year before in highly dubious successive hit-and-run accidents near their college in Melbourne.

Although relatively small in numbers now, the fascists are the mortal enemies of all working people and the oppressed and *must be crushed in the egg before they grow*. History has shown that when the capitalists feel their rule threatened by the working class and their system is in crisis—as in Italy and Germany in the 1920s and 1930s—they will finance the fascist killers and assist their rise to power in order to smash the workers organisations, imposing unspeakable barbarism and mass murder. Without revolutionary leadership the working class of Europe paid a terrible price, as the Nazi Holocaust devoured tens of millions of Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, leftists and others.

Twenty million Soviet people died fighting to crush the Nazi horror in World War II and it was the Soviet Red Army that liberated Europe from the fascist scourge. But the ISO and its forebears, capitulating to the imperialist pressure of Cold War I, denounced "bloody Russia." The ISO cheered the forces of capitalist restoration—from the fascist-infested Baltic nationalists to the Yeltsin/Bush countercoup in Moscow, 1991. The class-collaborationist appetites that underpinned these reformists' virulent anti-Sovietism can be seen in their supine response to the fascist terrorists here.

The ISO is fond of waving around the supposedly militant anti-fascist credentials of its British co-thinkers of the Socialist Workers Party and its Anti Nazi League (ANL). The reality is that the ANL was formed as a popular-frontist outfit beholden to Labourite politicians, Anglican vicars and assorted bourgeois forces. When the fascist National Front marched through London's East End in 1978, the ANL *deliberately prevented* tens of thousands of anti-fascist protesters from confronting the NF, instead keeping them ten miles away at the ANL's "carnival." More recently, the reborn ANL has pushed the suicidal policy of demanding that the capitalist state "ban" the fascists. The capitalist state has and will use such laws against leftists and anti-fascist militants.

The maximum goal for these Third Campists is not the revolutionary struggle for proletarian state power but the

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Australasian

# SPARTACIST



For a workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!

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# War Hysteria Over Nuclear Reactor

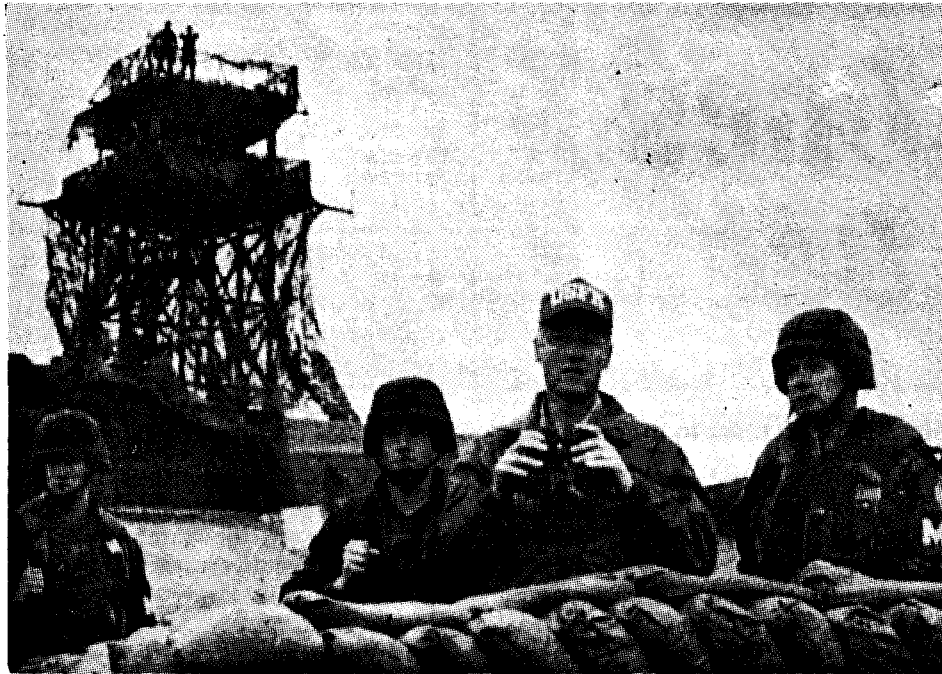
## Imperialist Hands Off North Korea!

The following article is reprinted from Workers Vanguard No. 591, 7 January 1994.

Over the last couple months, the U.S. rulers' campaign of shrill war hysteria against North Korea has been building to a climax. Last July, Clinton went to South Korea and standing at the edge of the DMZ, the highly militarized border between the two countries, threatened the annihilation of the North in case of an "attack." Then on November 7, the U.S. president declared that "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb. We have to be very firm about it. We have our soldiers there." Echoing the propaganda buildup preceding the U.S.-led imperialist war on Saddam Hussein's Iraq two years ago, the capitalist media denounce the Pyongyang regime as an "outlaw state." A *Newsweek* (29 November 1993) headline declares North Korea "Public Enemy Number One." (Before that it was Castro's Cuba.) Alternating hair-raising threats with humiliating proposals for a putative "peaceful resolution" to this manufactured crisis, the U.S. ruling class is trying to squeeze isolated North Korea into caving in.

The DMZ is a stark reminder of U.S. imperialism's last attempt to destroy the North Korean regime, which as the Soviet tanks drove out the Japanese colonialist occupiers in 1945 eliminated capitalist-landlord rule north of the 38th parallel. It is the armistice line drawn in 1953 at the end of the Korean War, partitioning the country and setting up a dictatorial U.S. puppet regime in the South. North Korean and Chinese forces fought U.S./Australian imperialism to a standoff as Washington devastated the country, bombing the northern capital of Pyongyang to smithereens and killing more than 2 million people in its neo-colonial war disguised as a United Nations "police action." Now that the Soviet Union has been destroyed through counterrevolution, with vital Soviet oil deliveries gone and the Chinese Stalinist regime taking its own road toward capitalism, the truly bureaucratically deformed North Korean workers state—headed by 81-year-old Kim Il Sung, his son Kim Jong Il and his brother Kim Yong Ju—is up against it. Class-conscious workers must defend North Korea against the U.S. counter-revolutionary offensive!

The pretext for the imperialist nuclear brinkmanship is the claim that the tiny country is on the verge of developing an



Reuters

U.S. Imperialist commander in chief Clinton at DMZ between North and South Korea for sabre-rattling photo op.

A-bomb arsenal. Never mind that a spokesman for the Pyongyang regime told the UN General Assembly in October that "we have no nuclear weapons; we have neither the intention nor the need to develop these weapons, nor the financial resources to support their production." Never mind that the International Atomic Energy Agency, a UN agency dominated by American officials, says that North Korea could only have produced a few grams of plutonium *four years ago*, and that was turned over to the IAEA. Never mind that now-former U.S. "defense" secretary Aspin "clarified" that the North Koreans "are not building the potential for more bombs" (*Washington Post*, 13 December 1993). Never mind that North Korea has now agreed to IAEA snooping at all seven identified "nuclear" sites. Washington has cast the Kim regime as a bogeyman in order to underscore the U.S. intent to act as unchallenged cops of the world.

A week after Clinton's November 7 threat, the U.S. and South Korea launched their provocative "Team Spirit" military exercises near Seoul. These maneuvers, based on a scenario which would include massive aerial bombing of the North, were called off in 1992 as a result of an agreement by the governments of North and South Korea for mutual inspection of nuclear sites on the peninsula. Then came the announcement that the U.S. was preparing "flexible deterrence options," including additional combat units and deployment of an aircraft carrier battle group offshore. The

White House ostentatiously leaked that Clinton would be briefed by Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman John Shalikashvili, a certified Cold Warrior whose father was an officer in Hitler's Waffen SS, on the Pentagon's plan (USFK 50-27) to launch a war on North Korea. Just before his resignation last month, Aspin announced a "counter-proliferation initiative," ordering the U.S. military to develop "battle plans against rogue nations with newly acquired nuclear capability."

As part of the escalation, U.S. intelligence agencies now claim that there is a "better than even" chance that North Korea already has two A-bombs. (Aspin had said the North "might" have "a single nuclear device.") While this dubious claim was made by hawks pushing for a preemptive strike, the *New York Times* (28 December 1993), spokesman for the imperialist doves, pointed out: "If it is indeed hiding two bombs, any military attack would be supremely risky." As the State Department talks with Pyongyang representatives, Clinton threatens to impose sanctions against North Korea if it does not capitulate to U.S. demands soon. Even U.S. officials admit that this would be an act of war, especially if enforced by a naval blockade, that could provoke retaliation by the North. Although such threats may be a negotiating ploy, many in Washington would welcome any excuse to undertake a "final solution" to the North Korean deformed workers state.

The saber rattling is hardly the result of an imperialist consensus. There are reported divisions within the administration over how hard a line to take against North Korea. And both the South Korean and Japanese governments are unenthusiastic about the drumbeats coming from Washington. No wonder. Just as the bloody war against Iraq was partly intended to underscore U.S. military strength against its German and Japanese imperialist rivals, so *Washington's war threats against North Korea are a warning particularly to Tokyo*. As inter-imperialist trade war sharpens, Japan is moving ever more openly to repudiate its postwar "nuclear allergy." It has already expressed reservations about renewing the nuclear nonproliferation treaty next year, and unlike impoverished North Korea, Tokyo has the massive financial and scientific resources, plus a big stockpile of weapons-grade plutonium from its power reactors, to quickly become a major nuclear power.

Over the past year Washington has been turning up the heat over the sup-

posed danger of North Korea getting The Bomb. The State Department/media propaganda campaign paints a picture of an aggressive Kim Il Sung flouting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This "nuclear threat" scenario is a pack of lies, and pretty selective besides. The *London Economist* (17 July 1993) noted that Washington isn't complaining about "India, Pakistan and Israel, which secretly have nuclear weapons, or else could have them in a twinkling of a screwdriver, and have never belonged to the NPT" unlike North Korea which "signed up of its own free will." (Actually, Pyongyang was coerced into signing in 1985.) As Trotskyists, we unconditionally defend the deformed workers states against imperialist attack and blackmail. North Korea has every right to have nuclear weapons, particularly as the U.S. previously admitted to having some *1,000 nuclear warheads* in the South, and actively discussed plans to A-bomb Pyongyang during the Korean War.

As for the "treaty violations," in 1992 North Korea gave the IAEA more than they had to under the treaty, opening up to inspection some sites the agency hadn't even known about (see "New World Order Targets North Korea," *Workers Vanguard* No. 574, 23 April 1993). But the IAEA insisted on "special inspections," i.e., the right to stick their noses anywhere they choose. On November 1, the IAEA flatly *turned down* a North Korean offer to allow the agency to change film and batteries in its spy cameras. When on December 5 North Korea offered full access to five of the seven sites requested, Washington said this was "not enough." Three weeks later, Pyongyang agreed to open up all seven; the Clinton administration demanded "special inspections." Yet North Korea's mythical refusal to "cooperate" is now to be the basis for proposed UN sanctions!

The U.S. says it pulled its nuclear warheads out of South Korea, but who knows? Nobody is going to inspect their bases. Besides, what gives Washington the right to say who gets a nuclear bomb? They're the only ones who ever actually used atomic bombs against anyone! Democrat Truman atom-bombed two Japanese cities in 1945, and the U.S. threatened to use nuclear weapons during the Korean War. The nonproliferation treaty is just an attempt by the U.S. imperialists to maintain their nuclear hegemony so they can terrorize everybody else.

The Pentagon knows that North Korea is no pushover, with the bulk of its million-strong army deployed along the DMZ, just 30 miles north of Seoul. A front-page *New York Times* article on December 2 meant to rattle the imperialist saber ("Pentagon Studies Plans to Bolster U.S.-Korea Forces") was critically undercut by the admission that if the U.S. provokes a war *they might lose on the ground*, at least initially. The White House, says the *Times*, thinks they would win in the end, "although some Administration officials acknowledge that Seoul would probably be destroyed in the process"! *Newsweek* reported that two highly classified Pentagon studies predicted the North could take Seoul in days and "overwhelm the South's defenses in less than two weeks." Today these arguments are used to bolster the case for negotiations. Tomorrow they could be used to promote a U.S. nuclear first strike against the North.

The U.S. provocations alarm its allies in Seoul and Tokyo. Japanese finance

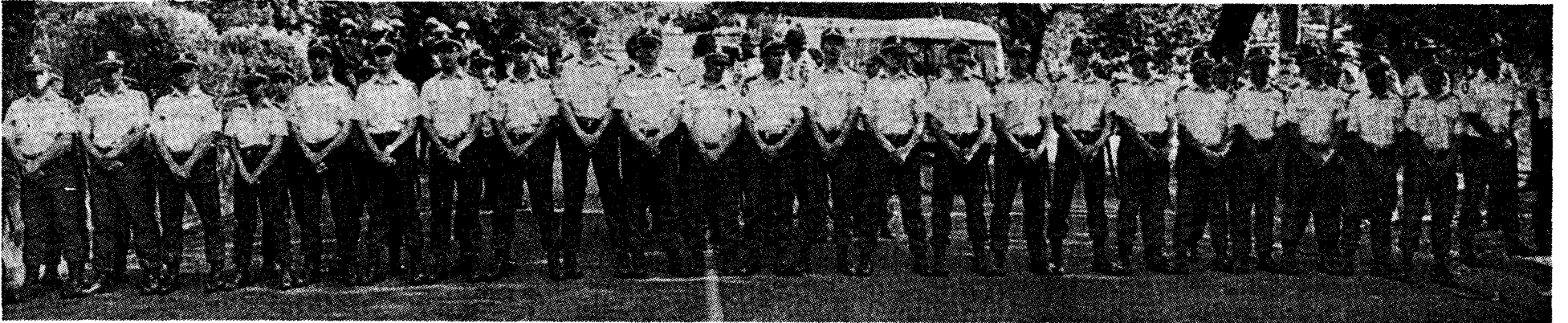
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Pantheon Books

Pyongyang, North Korea, laid waste during the Korean War. Australian jackal imperialists were first to commit troops to U.S.-led imperialist war.

# Halfpenny Shafts Richmond Picket As... Kennett Unleashes Savage Cop Attack



Trevor Pinder

Melbourne, 13 December: Police phalanx forms up prior to bloody baton-wielding assault on picket line outside Richmond Secondary College.

The Spartacist League leaflet printed below, entitled "Kennett Unleashes Savage Cop Attack/For Mass, Militant Mobilisations to Defend the Richmond Picket!" was issued on 17 December in response to the 13 December baton-wielding cop attack on a picket line outside the Richmond Secondary College (RSC) in Melbourne. The week before, the Kennett Victorian state government had sent in police to forcibly evict protesters who had been occupying the school for a year following its closure. Over the last period in Victoria, 231 schools have been closed and 8,100 teaching jobs axed. Jobs in education, health, transport and social services have been slashed by the Kennett government, carrying out the austerity program of the Keating federal Labor government which has provided the funds for redundancy payments.

As Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary John Halfpenny and the Laborite leaders of the teachers' and other unions worked overtime to derail and demobilise strike action against Kennett's attacks, they were happy to officially endorse the Richmond occupation as a cheap left cover. With Halfpenny having promised no more

mass protests after the 6 October union rally, simply proposing electoral work for state ALP opposition leader Brumby, Kennett moved to clean out the Richmond protesters with brute police force. Threatening withdrawal of official endorsement of the picket line, and chiming in with the government's "extremist" scare-mongering, Halfpenny and teachers' union bureaucrats took the picket line down and helped push through a "deal" which accepted the government's plan for an elite all-girls school on the site, offering the sop of a co-educational school in an "annexe" consisting of a former caretakers residence and three portable classrooms.

Meanwhile Halfpenny & Co. found some willing school prefects in the ostensibly Trotskyist Militant group who for the last year have been immersed in helping to lead the Richmond occupation, touting it as the virtual epicentre of the class struggle. With the smashing of the picket line by the police, the failure of the trade-union misleaders to lift a finger to defend the Richmond picket and Halfpenny having negotiated a shelter shed for them to play in, these reformists are now reduced to traipsing around the streets of Richmond trying

to sign up kids to attend their "school." Talk about sub-reformist "community organising"! At the same time the Supreme Court overturned an Equal Opportunity Board ruling to re-open Northlands Secondary College. The EO ruling oh-so-conveniently came down in December just as clashes were occurring at Richmond. In the absence of a class-wide fight against the cuts, closures and sackings, the bosses have been able to pick off these institutions one-by-one.

After the bloody cop attack on the picket line at RSC, the Militant group absurdly claimed this "exposed the real weakness and desperation of the State Government" (undated broadsheet). Following the widespread outcry over Kennett's police-state tactics, Halfpenny's agreement with the cops to defuse the situation—i.e., that they wouldn't use batons, except in an "emergency"—was also hailed by the Militant group which meanwhile preached pacifist "non-violence" to the protesters. This should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with Militant's parent group in Britain which in March 1990 threatened to do in anti-poll tax protesters to the state after a massive police riot in Trafalgar Square.

The British Militant group only emerged as an independent organisation in 1992 after being buried for over 40 years in the British Labour Party. Their record there bespeaks grovelling capitulation to the social-chauvinist Laborites: from their refusal to call for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland, to their backhanded support to Thatcher's squalid Falklands war (in which neither the British nor Argentine workers had any interest) and call for "workers sanctions" against Argentina, to the imperialist Persian Gulf slaughter in which they refused to take a side for the defeat of imperialism and defence of Iraq, Militant has abjectly capitulated to British imperialism. And like the rest of the treacherous pro-imperialist Laborite "left" they have supported every counterrevolutionary movement in the degenerated and deformed workers states from Walesa's Solidarność in Poland to Boris Yeltsin's capitalist restorationist rabble in Moscow in August 1991.

Having set up in Australia in the last few years, Militant lost no time in offering its services to the wretched, racist Australian social democracy, trying to rope disaffected youth and workers back into the corral of Laborite politics. As a Militant broadsheet dated 5 October 1993 declares: "Working class people...must be organised into a political force that can bring about a change of direction in the ALP" and "compel a future Labor government to carry out policies in the interests of working class people." From the organisation whose British mentors proclaim that "socialism" can be legislated through an "enabling act" in Parliament "nationalising" the top 200 companies, this means a dedication to the reform of

capitalism and its state, pure and simple.

The brutal cop charge on the Richmond picket was meant to send a message to the whole of the working people: the full force of state power will be unleashed on those fighting for their rights. In the following weeks, in two separate incidents, Victorian police shot to death two mentally ill people, making a total of over two dozen people executed by the police in the last five years in the state. The task is to forge a revolutionary party of the working class that can fight for proletarian class rule. And that requires a sharp political struggle against the pro-capitalist Laborites, from Keating to his "left" prop Halfpenny, to their various camp followers such as the Militant group.

\* \* \*

When Kennett unleashed his baton-wielding boot boys against the Trades Hall Council-endorsed picket line at Richmond Secondary College (RSC) on Monday, 13 December, he threw a gauntlet down to the whole trade-union movement. Many picketers were bloodied and beaten, five were arrested as they attempted to prevent scab contract labourers from entering the site. A 61-year-old grandmother holding an official union placard was among those injured. The following day another three picketers were arrested after cops brutally attacked the line—this time minus their clubs. The bosses and their thugs in blue have drawn a line in the blood of teachers, students, parents, leftists and community activists in Richmond: **the whole Melbourne labour movement should be mobilised to defend the Richmond picketers and throw the gauntlet back in Kennett's face! An injury to one is an injury to all!**

The federal Labor government's union-busting austerity is sharply felt in Victoria which first under Labor's Joan Kirner and now under the Liberals' Jeff Kennett has seen spiralling unemployment, layoffs and massive cuts in education and social services. The closure of the Richmond Secondary College is of a piece. When the cops were unleashed against the Richmond picketers—using for the first time in Victoria a new-style baton charge—it was meant to send a message to the whole of the working people and oppressed: if you fight in defence of your rights, you will be met with the full force of the state. Kennett thinks he can **literally beat** working-class resistance to a pulp.

Hand-in-hand with the violent force used against the Richmond pickets has been the insidious singling out by police of prominent militants and a media red-baiting frenzy against socialist organisations active on the picket line. Lurid and inane police fabrications that "anarchist" protesters deliberately provoked...violent clashes"; smears about red "kidnapping, of taking over, of hijacking these sorts of protests"; and even the baldfaced lie that injured protesters photographed by the press had "smear-

## Bosses' War on Wharfies: Shut Down the Ports!

FEBRUARY 14—The bosses are out to destroy the wharfies! As we go to press, Australian Stevedores (AS) has declared war on the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), threatening to sack the entire Sydney workforce of 540 workers. After the 11 February shutdown of all AS ports over the provocative sacking in Sydney of 55 workers—including 21 union delegates—the Sydney AS wharfies have remained on strike.

Even the hidebound union bureaucrats recognise that the bosses are out to destroy the union. As the union press release states: "Why then have these employers attempted to enforce compulsory retrenchments? This can be answered in two ways: Their desire to: \*casualise the industry on terms inferior to Award conditions of permanent employees, and the KEY QUESTION \*the attempted destruction of our Union."

But in the face of this key question—the attempted destruction of the wharfies' union—the Coombs misleadership is keeping members at every other company and port working! The MUA tops bleat that "This comes about after we have already shed some 4600 jobs (over half of the workforce of 1991)." It sure does. Enough! Wharfies have the muscle to bring Australia's vital shipping trade to a

halt. What's urgently necessary now is to form strike committees, set up flying pickets to bring out the entire union, seamen included, and shut down all the ports tight! A fight against this attack on the wharfies could be the spark for a class-wide offensive to turn the tide of Keating's union-busting austerity.

When a wharf strike shut down all ports for four days last September the bosses and their hired guns in the Keating Labor government squealed like stuck pigs. The government brought in ACTU head Kely and Federal Transport Minister Collins to "mediate." The result was to give the bosses a chance to step up their offensive, the Coombs bureaucracy a breathing space and the wharfies less than one big fat zero. Before the AS bosses threatened the mass sackings, the Conaust bosses had also gone for the union's jugular, sacking a delegate. Coombs squelched sentiment then for a port-wide shutdown at a mass meeting of AS wharfies in Melbourne on 5 November and sent the Conaust strikers back to work minus their delegate.

In our last issue we wrote:

"That the wharfies are now in the crosshairs of the bosses' and Labor government's union-busting drive is no accident. The history of the waterfront workers has been one of both militant

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fake blood on themselves" have been duly circulated. Police used their file of video tapes of the Richmond picket to identify supporters of the International Socialist Organisation (ISO) who were allegedly present at other protests—notably against the visit of then-U.S. imperialist-in-chief George Bush as well as the nationwide student demonstrations over slashing Austudy allowances in 1992.

Following the student Austudy protests, Victorian cops under the command of the then-Labor state government launched gestapo-style dawn raids on the homes of seven students, including ISO supporters. Computer files, address books and notes were seized and five ISO supporters charged with offences ranging from "unlawful assembly" to "rescuing prisoners from lawful custody." As we said at the time: "What is urgently needed is the broadest union, student and minority action to oppose these frame ups and attacks! **Down with this dangerous anti-communist witchhunt!**" Kirner and now Kennett have sought to criminalise and set up for vicious state repression those who exercise their right to protest anything from cuts in student allowances to Bush—ex-CIA godfather and imperialist butcher of over 100,000 Iraqi men, women and children.

The organised working class has the power to turn this sinister vendetta around: **drop all the charges against the Richmond pickets!** Despite official endorsement from Trades Hall Council, the Richmond picketers were left to fight alone against the cops and the scabs. It's no accident that Kennett upped the ante against this isolated struggle; he counted on the Laborite THC to sit on its hands, which is exactly what it has been doing. The THC was content to give its imprimatur to the year-long diversionary occupation of the RSC—which they allowed Kennett to close a year ago. Meanwhile, the union bureaucrats have demobilised class struggle against Kennett's all-sided attacks, including school closures. At the THC-endorsed mass picket on Thursday, 16 December, spokesmen from the CMFEU, Metal Workers and other unions expressed their solidarity with the Richmond picket. But fine words don't stop scabs! Had these unions' members been mobilised to join the picket the relationship of forces would have been radically altered: a broad mobilisation of union power can send the scabs packing and keep Kennett's cops at bay.

From the striking car workers at Toyota to the wharfies (who after their national strike recently struck again in defence of a victimised shop steward) to the embattled and historically militant transport workers in Melbourne: there is manifest potential to mobilise the ranks of the labour movement, to draw the line for our class in as determined a fashion as Kennett and his thugs have done for theirs. That requires a **political struggle** to break the working-class base of the ALP from its pro-capitalist tops and servile Laborite trade-union misleaders, to forge a revolutionary leadership of the working class committed to **smashing the capitalist system**, not pleading that it "reform" itself.

Both THC leader John Halfpenny and Militant supporter Stephen Jolly—prominent in the Richmond campaign—have denounced the Richmond police riot as something more likely to be seen in a Third World dictatorship than in "democratic" Labor-run Australia. Such sentiments are worthy of these "true believers" in the ALP government which, in its role as a jackal imperialist power in the region, arms and braintrusts the Papua New Guinea government in its murderous campaign against the Bougainville people, promotes counter-revolution in Indochina and serves its senior U.S. partners as a base of operations against the deformed workers states of beleaguered North Korea, Vietnam and China. At "home"—as the families of the Aboriginal people murdered at the hands of the police, the

Asian refugees left to languish in hell-hole concentration camps, the Arab people whose recent Carnival Day in Sydney was subject to a full-scale police assault can attest—the Australian capitalist state is vicious, racist and anything but "democratic."

No matter what party is in power to administer it, the racist, capitalist state has as its function the defence of the bosses, their property and their system. Militant and ISO supporters now under the red-baiting gun must be vigorously defended. At the same time, the abjectly reformist policies of these organisations serve to disarm the working class. Both groups evidence a touching faith in the bourgeois state—especially if administered by the Labor lieutenants of capitalism. Thus, the Militant in Britain called for the racist, strike-breaking cops to be brought "into the orbit of the labour movement," through the "right of the police to an independent, democratic trade union organisation." The same can be said of the ISO's British co-thinkers in the Socialist Workers Party who announced that "when coppers strike, they stop behaving like police and rejoin their class." Workers and youth on the Richmond picket line know well that Kennett's cops are no "workers in uniform," but the hired thugs of the capitalist class.

Along with their social-democratic claptrap on the nature of the capitalist state, the ISO and Militant group invariably call for a vote to the ALP no matter what, no matter when (although recently faced with the certain defeat of Labor in South Australia, the ISO contented itself with counselling workers to "fight the new Liberal government all the way"). Integral to this Laborite reformism is their hostility to those states where capitalism has been overturned. From Poland to East Germany to the Yeltsin countercoup in August 1991, Militant and the ISO aligned themselves with the imperialist-backed drive to overturn the gains of the great October Bolshevik Revolution and to impose IMF-starvation capitalist regimes on the peoples of the former Soviet bloc. The "New World Order" which has issued from the destruction of the East European and Soviet deformed and degenerated workers states has meant imperialist mass murder from Iraq to Somalia; the rise of fascism and racist terror throughout Europe; heightened inter-imperialist conflict and trade wars which ultimately lead to shooting wars. At the same time, from France to Germany, burgeoning class struggle and opposition to the fascist gangs has brought militant workers and youth into conflict with both the capitalist regimes and the social democracy whose job it has been to serve imperialism so faithfully, for so long.

We fight for a revolutionary, internationalist leadership of the working class which can mobilise the power of the trade unions to fight in the interests of all the workers and oppressed—the unorganised, the immigrant workers, the Aborigines, the unemployed, the impoverished youth and students, women and homosexuals—and to rip the wealth of this country out of the hands of the ruling class and begin to build a planned, socialist, egalitarian society that provides jobs and education for all. Imperialist war, police terror and increased immiseration are all the rulers and their Labor lackeys of this deeply irrational system have to offer.

Unchained from the parliamentary cretinist, Laborite stranglehold of its misleaders, the organised workers movement can put Kennett, Keating and their whole rotting system out of business. **For mass, militant mobilisations of all Melbourne labour in defence of the Richmond pickets! Drop all charges against the Richmond protesters now! Down with the anti-communist witchhunt! For hard class struggle—forge a revolutionary party! For a workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!** ■

## Nazi Skinheads...

(continued from page 2)

election of a Labor government—for which the ISO worked so assiduously as loyal waterboys in the last election. Despite occasional left-sounding rhetoric, the ISO's social-democratic program boils down to reforming the capitalist state (e.g., to "ban" fascists, to provide "justice" to Aboriginal people, to "sack all racist cops," *ad nauseam*). With such a perspective it is not possible to lead a fight against fascism, here, in Britain, or anywhere else. That fight requires the independent mobilisation of the working class and oppressed and perforce a political struggle against the pro-capitalist Labor Party tops and trade union misleaders to whom the ISO has ultimately sworn allegiance. For their part, the Militant group and Socialist Labour League were conspicuous by their absence from the 20 November anti-fascist protest.

The Spartacist League is the Australian section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist). In the U.S. and Canada our comrades have organised labour/black mobilisations that have successfully stopped the fascists from Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Atlanta to Vancouver. And on 3 January 1990 the largest anti-fascist demonstration in German history took place at Treptow Park in East Berlin; this demonstration of 250,000 was initiated by our comrades of the Spartakist

Workers Party of Germany (SpAD) and then taken up by the ruling Stalinist party in response to the vile desecration of the Soviet war graves by fascist hooligans.

Our strategy of mobilising the organised working class has given a taste of the power that must be brought to bear to stop the fascist scum. Here, in May, we were able to mobilise Aborigines, students, leftists and trade unionists in direct action to smash a racist ban at the Student Prince Hotel in Sydney. The conditions for our success in these actions were: no illusions in the capitalist state, an intransigent fight for the political independence of the working class and confidence in its ability to fight on behalf of all the oppressed and in its own class interest.

To defeat the fascists once and for all means building a revolutionary party to overthrow the decrepit rule of the capitalist class which spawns fascism and to bring the working class to power. As the Spartacist spokesman concluded in his speech to the 20 November demonstration in Northcote after the victory against the skinhead Nazis: we think the working class must be won to the defence of *all*—immigrants, Aborigines, gays, women. This means a political struggle against the present leadership of the working class, the Labor Party and the labour bureaucrats. We stand for the building of a revolutionary workers party that can fuse the working class and all the oppressed into one gigantic fist that will smash the racist capitalist system for good! Join us! ■

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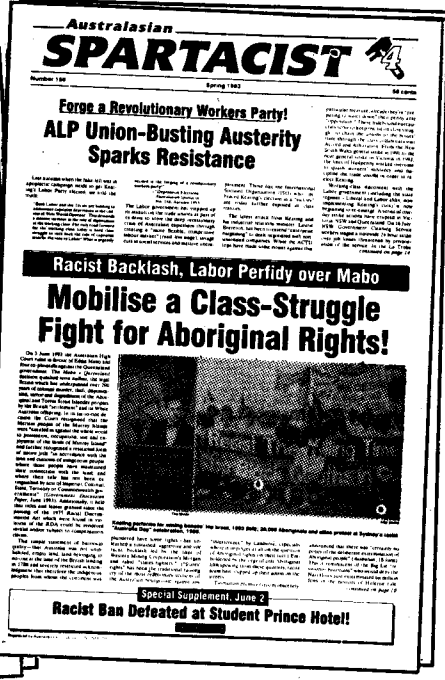


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# Anti-Racist Protesters...

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who sought to sabotage any effective response to the fascist terrorists, ranging from federal agencies and the highest levels of the state administration to the AFL-CIO bureaucracy and so-called "Anti"-Defamation League. The organizing efforts against the Klan provocation had a sharp polarizing effect throughout the labor movement.

On Sunday, January 16, some 500 people braved arctic temperatures and a blinding snowstorm to prevent a provocation against Martin Luther King Day. This significant event was forged by the Partisan Defense Committee, the legal and social defense organization associated with the Spartacist League. The PDC issued the call, "All Out to Stop the KKK!" just before New Year's Day and then waged the political and legal battles necessary to realize it. Late on in the mobilizing effort, the PDC had to wage a battle in the federal courts against Illinois Secretary of State George Ryan's move to effectively rescind a permit the PDC had already been granted to demonstrate within view of the Klan provocation.

As support for this anti-Klan effort grew wider and deeper, particularly among black workers who fought to bring the unity of the multiracial labor movement to bear against the KKK scabherders and racist terrorists, all the resources of bourgeois state power—the cops, the courts, the bourgeois press (and of course the "lieutenants of capital" in the union movement)—were cranked up to knife this urgent labor/black action. But we had struck a responsive vein of anger and discontent among wide sectors of the population, from the factories to the ghettos and college campuses. More than 100,000 leaflets building this anti-racist action were distributed. The wellspring of support wouldn't be stopped, and the mobilization went ahead.

What prevailed in Springfield on January 16 was a labor-centered mobilization in defense of black people and all intended victims of Ku Klux Klan terror. Initiated and organized by the PDC, it was enthusiastically taken up by determined working-class fighters who showed that labor is a formidable force when organized to consciously fight for its own class interests. "Those of us who are here, we are the hard core of the union. We are the hard core of this movement," said John Hill, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of Chicago's Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308, which endorsed the demonstration and chartered a bus for ATU members to be there.

Cook County Commissioner Danny Davis took a very forward position in the battle against the Klan and the forces of state repression. At a January 12 press conference in Chicago, Davis motivated the necessity for people to act and join the "All Out to Stop the KKK" mobilization:

"The father of the civil rights movement in this country was Frederick Douglass. Douglass told us that 'He who is whipped the easiest is whipped the most often.' 'If the Klan is marching in Springfield on Sunday, unchecked and unchallenged, they will be in Chicago next Monday. They will be all over America and before we know it we will be back at a point in our history that I'm sure none of us ever want to see again. Let's let the Klan and any Klan sympathizers know that, no, we will not stand back. We will go forward.'"

This demonstration represented a diverse social and political spectrum united in struggle against the Ku Klux Klan—blacks and unionists from Springfield and as far away as Chicago and St. Louis, contingents of students from Chicago State and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Jews, Catholics, gays and leftists. Rudy Davenport, president of the Springfield NAACP, brought people out with him in the frigid cold

Sunday morning and told the *Chicago Defender* (17 January): "We are here to show the Klan that there is one unified group against racism in the United States of America."

Black residents of Springfield already have direct experience of the fascists, with "former" Klansman Tom Metzger's skinhead "WAR" (White Aryan Resistance) organizing racist thugs in the high schools to attack black youth. On Sunday these Nazi creeps showed up to proclaim that, as opposed to the white supremacists of the Klan, they were "white separatists," in other words that they seek complete genocide of the black people rather than subjugating them to slavery.

For nearly two hours before the Klan showed up, anti-fascist forces gathered

working-class mobilization unfortunately was paramount for them. These "left" fakers have no political strategy to mobilize the working class because they don't think it can be done. In place of a revolutionary program they substitute the often losing tactics of individual confrontation, and liberal confidence in the police. Only the day before in Columbus, Ohio, these same groups allowed themselves to be engaged by the police, passing individually through metal detectors, as they had previously done last fall in Columbus and Indianapolis.

In Springfield, the sectarianism of the fake-leftists dovetailed with the cops' desires to fragment the demonstration and facilitated provocations by fascist skinheads. As demonstrators drifted over to the barricades around the East side of

few days endorsements began to pour in from across the country—and around the world.

The impressive support shown by organized labor early on showed the appetite for powerful mobilization to stop the Klan. Endorsers included the presidents of heavily black union locals representing tens of thousands of Chicago-area workers, as well as the regional offices of the United Auto Workers (UAW), the United Electrical Workers (UE) and the United Rubber Workers (URW). Significant early endorsements included Robert Clark, head of UE District 11, and Johnnie Jackson, head of the Chicago Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). Unionists in the heart of Illinois labor's "war zone"—centered in Decatur, where Staley, Caterpillar



After drowning out Kluxers' racist recruitment rally, anti-Klan demonstrators march out.

WV Photo

on the Northeast side of the Capitol and fired up the frigid air with chants like "KKK—No Way! You Ain't Gonna Ride Today!" The big student contingent from Champaign-Urbana marched in behind their banner. Demonstrators went in shifts to a nearby restaurant to warm up.

Faced with a multiracial crowd determined to stop the race haters, Secretary of State Ryan deployed his special police to sneak the Klan like rats through underground tunnels into the Capitol building and then behind a maze of barricades and hundreds of riot cops in front of the East steps. Ryan's top cop "Jack" Pecoraro said that his "best piece of luck Sunday was simply the weather," with a wind chill of 16 degrees below zero, because otherwise "it could have been a larger crowd." Indeed, much larger.

The despicable and outrageous sight of the Confederate flag of slavery waving from the Statehouse in the "land of Lincoln" was the opening act of the Klan provocation, stage-managed by the police. The 50-odd Klansmen on the East steps of the Capitol gave Hitler salutes and played the "Ride of the Valkyries," by the Nazi *Führer's* favorite composer Wagner. So if you take off the KKK's white sheets, underneath you find some weird would-be Nazis! Anti-Klan demonstrators moved toward the East side of the Capitol and showed their defiant opposition to the murderous KKK. Riot-equipped cops fired mace into the crowd and tried pushing anti-Klan protesters around. Several people were arrested.

Various left groups—the International Socialist Organization (ISO), the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) and its all-purpose front group NWROC, and Progressive Labor Party (PL)—came with small groups of supporters, refusing to act in coordination with each other, much less with us. The PDC had invited—early on, in writing, and again on site—various anti-Klan forces to join in a unified opposition to the Klan in which the diversity of political views and strategies of all participating groups would be represented.

But sectarianism and arrogant petty-bourgeois opposition to a disciplined

the Capitol directly facing the Klan, the leaderless milling crowd was vulnerable to the repeated incursions by cops and violent provocations by skinheads, who kicked one woman in the stomach while shouting anti-Semitic slurs.

Despite the fragmented aspect of the demonstration at this point, the PDC organizers took action to reduce the vulnerability of and danger to the anti-Klan forces on the East lawn by sending union marshals into the crowd. We joined in tossing out some of the *pro-Klan elements* and WAR skinheads that the RWL, PL and ISO were rubbing shoulders (and sometimes knuckles) with while surrounded by the cops. From our podium, a powerful trio of transit workers led by ATU international vice president Jackie Breckenridge, an early endorser and defender of the demonstration, pumped up the volume and led chants of "Smash the Klan, this is the hour! Labor and blacks have got the power!" and "KKK—Nazis in bed-sheets!" to drown out the fascists.

Barely 45 minutes into their pathetic performance, the drowned-out Klansmen crawled back into their holes with their cop escorts. The ISO and PL left before the KKK did, and the RWL hit the road as soon as the Klan was gone. The triumphant labor/black mobilization reassembled those hard-core forces that had stuck through the bitter cold and held their ground until the Klan had left town. The labor/black mobilization formed up and marched away from the Capitol chanting, "KKK—No way! We stopped your march today!" and "Springfield—Too hot for the KKK!" Before buses left town, over 200 anti-fascist fighters packed into the restaurant hall where they cheered speakers and engaged in wide-ranging political discussion.

## A Labor-Centered Mobilization

With the issuing of the PDC's December 30 call, "No Racist Provocation Against Martin Luther King Holiday!" supporters of the PDC, the SL and Spartacus Youth Clubs fanned out. Within a

and Electrical workers have been under attack—understood the threat posed by the anti-union Klan. In Springfield, representatives of Local 73 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) endorsed and helped build the rally.

The work of Chicago transit workers in Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Locals 241 and 308 was crucial. They brought out integrated rail and bus workers, men and women, who formed the heart of the union marshals, insuring the anti-Klan demonstration was militant, disciplined and democratic from beginning to end.

Frightened that significant ranks of organized labor might actually engage in some class struggle against the racist poison of the KKK, the conservative, job-trusting, mainly white AFL-CIO bureaucracy got busy—knifing the anti-Klan effort. Even earlier, Communist Party supporters began calling trade-union leaders in an attempt to get them to back off their endorsements.

In the week before the Klan provocation the heavy hand of the AFL-CIO bureaucracy came down—hard—on union locals and officers who had lent their support to the anti-KKK action. Taking their orders from the Illinois state officials who were violence-baiting and red-baiting the PDC rally, on January 12 Illinois AFL-CIO president Donald Johnson sent out a letter to union locals across the state ordering unionists, "in the interest of good public relations," to "please stay away from the Capitol on Sunday, January 16." Springfield labor federation head Mike Hade held a press conference to declare that "labor" would do nothing to stop this Klan provocation.

Threatened by the way that organized labor in Illinois was getting organized for action, these sellout misleaders followed in the footsteps of longtime AFL-CIO chief George Meany, who boasted of never having walked a picket line. His successor, Lane Kirkland, supports the counterrevolutionary Yehtsin in Russia while knifing labor struggles at home. These partners of the bosses and their government, who spread anti-communism

and counterrevolution abroad while allowing the destruction of union conditions in the U.S., feed the growth of Klan terror.

Wide sections of the union memberships, including some local officials, deeply resented the attempts by the AFL-CIO bureaucrats to stop the anti-Klan mobilization. Resisting great pressure, some Springfield unionists defied the labor fakers like Johnson and Hade and took their places at the rally. The fight to mobilize the workers in struggle over concrete issues like stopping the Klan by mobilizing the mass labor organizations they belong to is the struggle for revolutionary leadership. The Springfield mobilization, like others in Detroit, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia and Atlanta initiated and built by the PDC and Spartacist League, give a glimpse of the future workers party that will mobilize and lead the working class and all the oppressed in struggle against their enemies.

### Capitalist State Connives with the Klan

As support mushroomed for the mobilization, Secretary of State Ryan stepped up his campaign to abrogate the civil and Constitutional rights of opponents of Klan terror by severely restricting the terms of the permit secured by the PDC on December 30. As PDC spokesman Al Spanfeller said when a lawsuit was filed against Ryan on January 13, "These police state tactics effectively put the state of Illinois in a bloc with the fascists against the labor and black opponents of the KKK."

The courts in lock step with the police kept us from having our speakers platform where we wanted it to be—in direct sight of the Klan—the better to acquaint them with the social power of the integrated labor movement mobilized in its own defense and on behalf of all the fascists' intended victims. As the PDC explained in a press release issued January 15:

"Secretary of State Ryan's aim from the beginning has been to create a leaderless and chaotic situation—the exact opposite of our intent.... A rally without centrally located sound and leadership is like a car without a steering wheel! The responsibility for any problems that may develop during

ping anti-Semitic fascists who target the Jewish people they claim to speak for.

Also aligned with the KKK and the forces of state repression was the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU...or is that "AKLU" now?). On January 14 the Partisan Defense Committee hand-delivered to the Illinois ACLU chapter a letter which read in part, "Given the ACLU's actions in assuring that the Klan rally proceed unimpeded on the day in question, we would hope that the ACLU will be equally scrupulous in defending our right to protest the Klan presence." These legal eagles for the KKK couldn't even bring themselves to reply.

But eloquent letters of protest poured into Ryan's office from labor unions and civil rights activists all over this country and internationally. David Richardson, a black Democratic member of the Pennsylvania state legislature, wrote to Ryan's office: "Your decision to oppress the Anti-Klan demonstrators by denying them a podium & sound equipment is despicable. Additionally, I am very concerned about the deployment of your police agents, which are serving to advance Klan activity in this Country."

While the state's attempt to repress the anti-Klan forces scared off some, it stiffened the resolve of many to be there in Springfield on January 16. For many who recalled the old FBI lie that Martin Luther King Jr. was a "commie dupe," which is echoed by the Klan in opposing a federal holiday in commemoration of him, our chant "Cops and Klan go hand in hand!" rang true.

The state was so intent on sealing Springfield under a white hood that two black women state legislators, Alice Palmer and Lou Jones, who had the courage to stand by their convictions and join the labor/black mobilization on January 16, were denied access to their offices in the State Capitol by riot-equipped police officers. Palmer and Jones denounced Ryan's action, saying "They wouldn't let elected officials in the building, but they escorted and protected the KKK." Even the press complained about the outrageous machinations of the state on behalf of the fascists, which included a five-man press pool with the rest of the reporters penned in like hogs.



WV Photo

**Anti-fascist speakers from a broad spectrum of organisations addressed the Springfield anti-KKK rally from North steps of state Capitol. Revolutionary leadership was key to united-front mobilisation.**

very vicious and dangerous paramilitary forces. They have been sent here by the Clinton White House to protect the Ku Klux Klan. If you didn't know, now you know that the state and the U.S. government stands with the racist killers of the KKK."

The BATF was up to its eyeballs in the bloody KKK massacre of five leftists and union organizers in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979. And we will not forget the massacre of 86 men, women and children in the Branch Davidian compound outside Waco, Texas by Janet Reno's "Justice" Department and the BATF. While much of the left sneered, we organized protest demonstrations in cities across America.

The meaning of the state's overt and aggressive collusion with the fascists in Springfield is clear and ominous: First Amendment "rights" to free speech and assembly for anti-Klan activists can effectively be wiped out in the name of "security" while the KKK gets a green light to insult and terrorize black America on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. As Al Spanfeller told WICS TV in Springfield, "If they're not stopped, next year there will be [Klan rallies in] 16 capitals and then 24 capitals and then you're not going to have Martin Luther King Day, you're going to be talking about KKK day." That is why the mobilization of labor/black power on the streets was so important. Like every other gain that working people and minorities have secured in this country, our democratic rights are precious to us and must be wrested and defended through hard class struggle.

### Black Liberation Through Socialist Revolution!

The state's concerted efforts to prevent anti-Klan protests in Springfield and elsewhere are part and parcel of yuppie racist Clinton's America. After the 1988 elections, to woo back the "Reagan Democrats" the right wing of the Democratic Party—led by Arkansas governor Bill Clinton—moved hard to push blacks to the back of the party bus. In the 1992 presidential elections, Jesse Jackson—the most prominent black political spokesman in this country for over a decade—was turned into an invisible man in the Democratic Party. Clinton came to office by deliberately insulting blacks. Since this "new" Democrat entered the White House, black Democratic mayors in the country's two largest cities—New York and Los Angeles—have been replaced by right-wing white Republicans. Over NAFTA, Clinton kicked organized labor in the teeth. Today all the Democrats have to offer blacks is more prisons and boot camps for youth.

Grotesquely conjuring up the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. in a November 13 speech to a black congregation in Memphis, where King was assassinated by a white racist, Clinton pushed the theme that "black people...murder other black people with reckless abandon." This is blaming the victims for their victimization. The outcry over "black on

black crime" has been taken up by black liberals like Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson, as well as Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Indeed, the theme of official M.L. King Day celebrations was "stop the violence" in the inner cities. In New York, Governor Cuomo called a special session of the state legislature on King Day to consider his new "crime" bill. And in Springfield, the KKK "blamed Blacks for the nation's drug and crime problems" (*Chicago Defender*, 17 January).

Many black Democrats and union officials were shocked that the KKK launched an aggressive campaign to defile Martin Luther King Day, the commemoration of the civil rights movement. But the Democratic Party and AFL-CIO bureaucracy is in large measure responsible for the political climate in which these racist terrorists feel they have the wind in their sails. The legal gains of the civil rights movement in the mid-1960s came at a time when the American capitalist economy began a long downward slide marked by deindustrialization, union-busting and "giveback" contracts. Today, the National Urban League estimates that 60 percent of black teenage males and 20 percent of all black men are unemployed. Most of those lucky enough to have jobs are forced to work at poverty-level wages.

The AFL-CIO bureaucracy has given up the gains won through decades of hard-fought labor battles. Instead of channeling the anger of workers and unemployed youth against the Fortune 500 corporations and Wall Street banks, the union tops are engaging in flag-waving attacks on Japan and recently on Mexico over the NAFTA agreement. Racist protectionism, wrapped in the American flag, feeds into the political climate which favors the Klan and Nazis, who hate Hispanics and Asians just as much as they hate blacks. The racist, chauvinist traitors who now run the American labor movement have to be ousted by the workers and replaced by a leadership committed to militant class struggle.

This fight is international in scope. The growing boldness of the KKK is matched by the rise of fascist terror in Europe. The outpouring of support from trade unionists from as far away as Italy and Japan shows the recognition that the fascist threat is for real. In a solidarity statement to the Springfield rally, the chairman of the German League of Anti-Fascists in Leipzig said "Right-wing terror is on the rise! Here in Germany it is mainly directed against foreigners, especially—but by no means only—against refugees from countries of the Third World, also against leftists, gays and Jews. And, as in your country, the police usually are blind in the right eye." To organize the workers and oppressed in their own class interests requires an international revolutionary party, with the program to defeat the fascists once and for all by destroying the capitalist system which breeds them. ■



WV Photo

**KKK/Nazi thugs on East steps of Capitol, protected by riot cops. State used black prisoners to set up barricades.**

this demonstration rests squarely with the Secretary of State's Office and his police forces."

Ryan was a public supporter of "Project Lemonade," an obscene initiative by the Zionist ADL to raise money off fascist KKK recruitment rallies and instruct outraged anti-fascists to stay home! Their stated aim was to raise more money, the longer the Klan provocation lasted! The ADL is literally putting price tags on the corpses of victims of fascist terror! This follows in the Zionist tradition of sacrificing poor Jews to the Nazis in the 1930s and '40s in exchange for allowing Jewish capital to flow in to create the future state of Israel. Racist murder and pogroms are the results of KKK/Nazi recruitment rallies that "Project Lemonade" wants to serve as the taxi meter for! The sinister ADL is far more interested in stopping blacks and "reds" than stop-

The editor of the Decatur *Herald & Review* said: "The KKK rally is not the Gulf War and George Ryan is not Norman Schwarzkopf or Colin Powell."

On the morning of January 16 there was a more sinister provocation by the state against the labor/black mobilization. Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) were found prowling around our rally site. Dressed in jump suits and ski masks, they claimed to be on site for a "bomb check." Except they had no explosives-sniffing dogs and when closely followed by our union marshals who insured these agents weren't planting anything, the BATF agents abruptly ended their "investigation" and left! As a PDC spokesman told demonstrators:

"Forces from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, known to all as the BATF, have been sent here. These are

## Vietnam...

(continued from page 1)

the just struggle of the Vietnamese, not least in Australia. The defeat of the U.S. military machine at the hands of the NLF/DRV forces stunned the imperialists and gripped the American population for years afterwards with the so-called "Vietnam syndrome," constraining the U.S. rulers from embarking on similar adventures.

Noting that "With the panicked flight of the Saigon bourgeoisie and the clear military victory by North Vietnamese armed forces, Vietnam has been wrenched from the orbit of imperialism and capitalist rule has been toppled," we said at the time of the 1975 victory:

"For half a century the workers and peasants of Indochina have fought tenaciously to break the stranglehold of imperialism. Their heroic will to struggle has been proven by incredible endurance in the face of years of the most barbaric repression and annihilation bombing. The victory signalled by the entry of troops of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the National Liberation Front (NLF) of South Vietnam into Saigon on April 30 belongs to the Indochinese working masses. Yet today it is not the proletariat that holds political power in Vietnam, governing through democratic soviets, but a parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy that rules."

— "Indochina: Deformed Revolution," *Workers Vanguard* No. 72, 4 July 1975

Defeated imperialism was not about to forgive this humiliating rout. In addition to its strategy of "bleeding Vietnam white" through the embargo, direct military action was also unleashed against Vietnam. This in particular centred on reversing the successful Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia in 1979. Vietnamese troops went into Cambodia in defence of their country against the insane provocations of the butcher Pol Pot and, in so doing, gave the Cambodian people a future. An imperialist campaign against the intervention ensued and in February

1979 the Chinese Stalinists, acting as a cat's paw of Washington, invaded Vietnam. The battle-hardened Vietnamese fought back ferociously and the vastly numerically superior Chinese forces were repulsed.

### Moscow Stalinists Abandon Indochina

The Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia beginning in 1988 was not a result of any military defeat, but undertaken at the behest of the Gorbachevite bureaucracy in the USSR. Gorbachev's limitless efforts to appease U.S. imperialism became manifest with the Red Army pullout from Afghanistan, the termination of an unambiguously progressive Soviet intervention against CIA-backed Mujahedin cutthroats, grotesquely labelled in Moscow as "the Soviet Union's Vietnam." The signal to Hanoi and the rest of the USSR's dependents was clear. Before its collapse in the face of Yeltsinite counter-revolution, Moscow Stalinism abandoned Indochina to the tender mercies of the imperialists in much the same way it left the former East Germany to be swallowed up by Kohl's Fourth Reich. Today troops from Australia and elsewhere remain in Cambodia under United Nations cover: *imperialist troops out of Indochina!*

For poverty-stricken Vietnam—devastated by decades of colonial occupation, imperialist slaughter including saturation bombing, followed by the U.S. embargo—fending off the counterrevolutionary alliance arrayed against it has been an enormous economic burden. The defeat of imperialism meant the native capitalists in Laos and Cambodia were driven out, but in the absence of these poor economies being integrated and the further extension of the revolution—which requires a conscious internationalist Leninist-Trotskyist leadership—Vietnam was thrown back on its meagre national resources and aid from Moscow. Having consciously rejected an internationalist

World Party and Jack Barnes' increasingly quirky Socialist Workers Party act as press agents for the Kim Il Sung regime (including praising North Korea's virtues as a vacation spot!). But while these *reformist* outfits talk of reunifying Korea, they do not even mention smashing capitalist rule in the South.

A "peaceful" *capitalist* reunification is precisely what the *chaebols* dream of. This would be a hellish disaster for the North Korean masses—those not starved to death would be slave labor for the Seoul capitalists and Tokyo (or Wall Street) banks—as well as for South Korea's powerful, combative proletariat. The South Korean workers have been heroically combative, carrying out pitched battles in shipyards, auto plants and steel mills against the strikebreaking military. But this economic militancy has not yet been matched by the revolutionary consciousness needed to sweep away the capitalist exploiters. The key to victory is the forging of a Leninist-Trotskyist party to lead the struggle for *revolutionary* reunification of Korea through socialist revolution in the South and workers political revolution in the North. And a Korean revolution can be the gateway for socialist revolution in Japan, industrial powerhouse of Asia.

With the colonial invasion of Somalia in the guise of "humanitarian" aid, the starvation sanctions and terror bombing of Iraq, the blockade of Haiti and now the saber rattling against North Korea, Clinton's America covers its militarist interventions with the UN fig leaf, just as fellow Democrat Truman did in Korea 40 years ago. The internationalist duty of the proletariat in the belly of the U.S. imperialist beast is to defend our Korean class brothers and sisters against Washington's war moves, on the road to a socialist revolution that can put these nuclear-armed madmen out of business for good. ■

### Heroic Vietnamese workers and peasants defeated U.S. and Australian imperialism on the battlefield.



no credit

program, in 1986 the Vietnamese leadership under the newly elected leader Nguyen Van Linh, adopted its version of Gorbachevite perestroika, called *doi moi* (open door). In December 1987 a new foreign investment law allowed overseas companies to set up wholly-owned or joint ventures with a minimum of 30 percent capital; in March 1988 restrictions on private enterprises in Hanoi were dropped; in April of that year agricultural cooperatives were downgraded and the promotion of private farming began. Today, 90 percent of the farms are in private hands.

Reeling from Gorbachev's cold shoulder, the Vietnamese Communist Party lurched further to the right. Veterans from the long war against U.S. imperialism were replaced by younger, more pliable elements who would be acceptable to and susceptible to the lure of imperialist investors. This suicidal trend was symbolised in the case of General Giap, architect of the Dien Bien Phu victory over French colonialism and the military strategist who helped bring the U.S. war machine to its knees. Giap was dropped from the Political Bureau in 1982 and removed from the Central Committee altogether at the Seventh Party Congress in 1990. (Giap would certainly not have made a suitable member of a welcoming committee for imperialist bankers and entrepreneurs.)

The victory of Yeltsinite counter-revolution in 1991 in the former Soviet Union meant the rapid depletion of desperately-needed Soviet aid. This immensely increased the pressures on the ruling Vietnamese Communist Party to accommodate to the incursions of the imperialist market—just as it has left the deformed workers states of China, Cuba and North Korea under severe threat of internal capitalist restorationist forces and particularly in the case of North Korea, direct imperialist military attack.

It is in this context—and that of heightened rivalries between the major imperialist powers—that the lifting of the American embargo takes place. The *Asian Wall Street Journal* (4-5 February 1994) noted: "Now that President Clinton has decided to end the 19-year-old restrictions on U.S. business dealings with Vietnam, American executives are relieved that they finally will be able to hawk their own products and compete alongside European and Asian rivals." Since Washington waived its objections to loans to Hanoi from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund late last year, competition amongst the imperialists for big contracts has begun in earnest.

The social-democratic/green Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) announced that "The US economic war against Vietnam has suffered the same fate as its military adventure—it has failed, and that is a triumph for the people of small nations the world over" (*Green Left Weekly*, 2 February). Coming from a group which, along with the rest of the Laborite left, embraced capitalist counterrevolution from Berlin to Moscow, this dismissal of the very real dangers facing the Vietnamese *deformed workers state*—hardly simply a "small nation"—is at least consistent. The embargo is lifted but the "economic war" most surely continues.

Today the U.S. seeks to return Indochina to neo-colonial enslavement as it competes with its Japanese and European rivals for trade and markets. (And already the jackal Australian imperialists fear the introduction of American investment will impinge on their own designs in the region.) Imperialist exploitation and slaughter are part of the living memory of the Vietnamese people, including the cadres running the country. They will not easily go back to that. The Stalinists' policy, however, has encouraged the forces of internal counterrevolution which would strike as deadly a blow to the Vietnamese workers state as imperialist military invasion.

Reporting in some detail on the impact of the lifting of the U.S. embargo, and the ensuing capitalist competition, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* wrote:

"American companies, oddly enough, also have the backing of Vietnam's ruling Communist party. The country's leadership sees American investment as a hedge against Vietnam's traditional enemy and major security threat: China."

This is a gross nationalist perversion of authentic communism. The imperialists have in store for the Chinese working masses the same oppression and exploitation they seek to foist upon the Vietnamese people. The gains of the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the Vietnamese Revolution and the North Korean workers state stand yet as obstacles to untrammelled capitalist exploitation throughout Asia. The fate of Vietnam is very much bound up with that of China.

Although the Mao regime pursued a treacherous policy towards Indochina from the 1954 Geneva Accords onward, not least during its anti-Soviet alliance with the U.S., the Chinese Revolution was a precondition for the establishment of a deformed workers state in Vietnam. (It is difficult to envision a victorious Vietnamese Revolution had China remained an American neo-colony under the butcher of the 1927 Shanghai uprising, Chiang Kai-shek, and his heirs.) Conversely, proletarian state power in

## North Korea...

(continued from page 3)

capital largely bankrolls the South Korean *chaebols* (big monopolies), but Washington still calls the shots militarily. The Seoul regime wants a capitalist takeover of the North *on its own timetable*. It is worried that any military escalation could easily lead to the destruction of its high-tech industrial base, or that a total collapse of the North could force it into a sinkhole "leveraged buyout" like capitalist West Germany's annexation of East Germany in 1990. And they don't have anything like the resources of the German Fourth Reich.

The South Korean bourgeoisie also fears the possibility of an explosion of social struggle, particularly by the large and volatile student movement, in response to increased U.S. provocations. Many of these student radicals are either sympathetic to the North or long for a nationalist reunification of the country. Yet the Kim Il Sung version of the Stalinist myth of "socialism in half a country"—under the watchword of *juje*, or "self-reliance"—is a bitter joke in the face of imperialist encirclement and isolation. Extension of the revolution is the only way out, and the Kim bureaucracy is a deadly enemy of that. In the U.S., Stalinist remnants like Gus Hall's Communist Party USA or Stalinoids like Sam Marcy's Workers

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# Stop the Witchhunt Against Michael Jackson!

Caught in a maelstrom of government and media persecution, the hugely popular black megastar Michael Jackson is the victim of a savage witchhunt over allegations of sexual abuse of a 12-year-old boy. The witchhunt was unleashed last August when an aspiring screenwriter apparently tried to use his son's friendship with Jackson to extort \$20 million and promises of a boost to his Hollywood career. It has since spiraled into an \$8 million civil suit and two potential criminal trials. Swarms of cops have searched Jackson's homes for "evidence," forcing the singer to strip and submit to an unheard-of, humiliating photographing of his genitals. Prissy media busybodies pass judgments on Jackson's longstanding friendships with boys and his appearance and lifestyle.

The allegations made by the boy, Jordy Chandler, were initially raised by his father, a dentist who wants out of the tooth business and into the film industry, during threats of an acrimonious child custody case between the divorced parents. Jackson had been friends with the boy for some time, taking him, his mother and sister to Disneyland four times, lavishing them with expensive gifts and reportedly enjoying hanging out with the three, watching TV, eating pizza and sleeping over. One or the other of the boy's parents was present in the house during these slumber parties, as the press has dubbed them. When Jackson refused to be blackmailed, the father rushed his son to a therapist, who complied by filing an abuse complaint against Jackson.

The witchhunt quickly took on a life of its own. Press reports have focused on the site of the alleged seduction, Jackson's 2,700-acre Neverland Valley Ranch, named in honor of the perpetual child, Peter Pan, a kid's fantasyland, with a zoo, fun rides, movie theater and Indian village. Now two other boys have claimed Jackson molested them, too. Several other boys who are friends of Jackson (including child star Macaulay Culkin) have come to his defense, and Elizabeth Taylor has courageously stood by him.

Whether or not criminal charges are filed, Jackson's music career and his whole life have been shattered. The shy and reclusive singer is rumored to be suicidal and addicted to pain killers, forcing the early cancellation of the "Dangerous" world tour amid the harassment of press photographers, newshounds and sponsors threatening to sue

for breach of contract. Corporate sponsors Pepsi and Sony dumped him, just like Nestlé dumped basketball star Magic Johnson when he announced that he was infected with the AIDS virus. In a December 22 TV address, Jackson tearfully described the "horrifying nightmare" his life has become, and asserted his complete innocence.

## Capitalist Reaction Unleashes Government Snoops

What makes the Jackson scandal such a blockbuster is the explosive mix of homosexuality, race and childhood sexuality with the "child abuse" witchhunt. State-sponsored social reaction has spawned right-wing crusades such as the "right to life" assault on women's right to abortion, "chastity" programs for teens and other outright denials of the sexuality of children and youth, escalating bigotry against homosexuals, the drive to censor pornography and to lock people up for what they read and look at and a generalized assault on the right to privacy. The persecution of the "King of Pop," probably the most successful recording artist of all time, is an ominous widening of the dragnet—somebody's got to be the victim, and who better than a headline-grabbing megastar already known for his eccentricities? Stop the witchhunt against Michael Jackson!

While no one looked askance at the risqué 1930s "baby burlesques" where Shirley Temple wiggled her little behind, today they'd probably qualify as "kiddie porn." Today's "child sex abuse" hysteria got its immediate start in Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign against homosexuals in the late '70s, and the "kiddie porn" scare of the '80s; government vehicles for persecution of alleged violators were established with the passage of the 1974 Mondale Act, which requires by law that professionals report even the most absurd and improbable sex abuse accusations to the cops, and the 1982 Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation Act.

The ongoing government vendetta against supporters of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates the right of men and boys to consensual sexual relations, represents the intersection of blatant anti-gay bigotry with reactionary "age of consent" laws. These "morality" campaigns are designed to glorify and prop

up the repressive prison of the family, the main institution for the oppression of women and children under racist American capitalism.

The most extreme manifestation of the anti-sex witchhunt has been the government-sponsored madness over "ritual child abuse" in day-care centers, where wild, impossible charges have ensnared hundreds, if not thousands, of childcare workers, children and parents in a nightmare of uncontrolled hysteria. Invoking the fearful, intimidating atmosphere of the anti-Communist McCarthyite per-

**Michael Jackson, victim of anti-sex witchhunt. State and Moral Majority: beat it!**



no credit

secutions of the 1950s and the Salem witch trials of the 1690s, this crusade has nothing to do with protecting children and everything to do with reinforcing traditional "family values," guilt-tripping working moms who need to leave their kids in day care and whipping up hatred and bigotry against "deviants" who do not conform to the bourgeois establishment's dictates of proper behavior.

Last spring, "child abuse" was the battle cry of President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, who supervised the FBI barrage which resulted in the incineration of an entire religious commune (including dozens of children, black and white) near Waco, Texas.

Now a wing of the bourgeois press, government officials and health professionals is moving to curb the worst excesses of the "satanic abuse" mania. But in this deeply puritanical country, interracial sex, cross-generational sex and homosexuality are a threat to social relations as decreed by our racist, bigoted capitalist rulers and the religious ideology which props up their social order. Witchhunts like the one against Michael Jackson are manipulated for reactionary political ends and serve to reinforce the bourgeoisie's warped and indecent values through fear and intimidation.

## Making Examples of the Rich and Famous

*Newsweek* (6 September 1993) noted that the tabloid TV show "A Current Affair" "changed the emphasis of its coverage in the wake of 1-900 polls that showed overwhelming support for Jackson among the show's viewers." From his start in Gary, Indiana as the child star of the Jackson 5 to the huge success of his first solo album in 1979, Jackson has achieved the greatest "crossover" success in rock'n roll history. As an asexual teen idol (one of whose hits was a love song to a giant rat!), Jackson achieved a level of popularity with white audiences un-

heard of for most black performers; when MTV broke its infamous "color bar" in 1984, it was to play Michael Jackson's video "Billie Jean."

At 40 million copies, Jackson's *Thriller* is the biggest-selling album of all time. Public interest in Jackson's quirky habits and increasingly bizarre androgynous and trans-racial appearance runs high: when Oprah Winfrey interviewed him, 62 million people watched. Today it seems every disgruntled former Jackson employee is appearing on *Hard Copy*, while his sister La Toya, the only untalented Jackson, holds "tell all" press conferences.

With their high public profiles and glamorous lives, movie and music stars have for decades been subjected to periodic purges for flouting bourgeois morality or mainstream politics: anti-Communist Hollywood blacklisting destroyed many careers during the 1950s. And the sex cops have been after straying stars for decades: in the '40s, matinee idol Errol Flynn was prosecuted for dal-

lying with under-age starlets, while Charlie Chaplin (whose socialist sympathies enraged FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover) was prosecuted on "morals" charges and exiled from the U.S. In the 1950s Jerry Lee Lewis, "The Killer," was blacklisted for legally marrying his 14-year-old cousin, while in the late '70s film director Roman Polanski had to flee the country to avoid statutory rape charges for having sex with a sexually experienced, 13-year-old girl. Today, the current vendetta against Jackson follows on the heels of the press massacre of Woody Allen after the revelations of his affair with the 20-year-old adopted daughter of ex-girlfriend Mia Farrow and Farrow's vengeful, frame-up charges of sexual abuse of their seven-year-old daughter.

Michael Jackson denies doing anything but sleeping fully clothed in the same bed with this boy; in any case, none of the allegations even hint that he forced anything on any of the youths. Jackson's personal life is nobody's business but his own. The threatened criminal charges rest on reactionary "age of consent" laws which are used for vindictive and punitive charges like these. These laws outright deny that children and youth can be interested in sex on their own behalf and are designed not to protect children but to impose abstinence, guilt and fear on youth who wish to have sex. Instead, the bottom line in sexual relations should be effective consent, regardless of the ages, sexes or other characteristics of the people involved. While determining such consent can be tricky, particularly when young people are involved with older ones, such relationships are not by definition evidence of abuse or coercion. In Michael Jackson's case, an extremely visible and vulnerable celebrity has been made a scapegoat in a government-sponsored climate of hysteria. Government out of the bedroom!

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Hanoi would be in dire jeopardy should capitalist counterrevolution triumph in China.

The Vietnamese Revolution of 1975 took place in the context of two major international events. Firstly, the right-wing coup and massacre in Indonesia a decade earlier (aided and abetted by both U.S. and Australian intelligence) destroyed the largest oppositional Communist Party in the world. The immediate effect of this historic defeat for the proletariat—a direct result of the Maoist/Stalinist policy to bloc with the "progressive" Sukarno—was to limit the damage for the imperialists of their defeat in Vietnam. Secondly, the Nixon/Kissinger strategic anti-Soviet alliance with China had been in effect since 1971. Thus, by the time the North Vietnamese army marched into Saigon, Vietnam was surrounded on the north and south by powerful U.S. allies in Beijing and Jakarta.

Today a counterrevolutionary dagger is pointed at the heart of the Vietnamese

Revolution. The ruling bureaucratic, nationalist caste in Hanoi is ultimately incapable of defending and extending the hard-won gains of that revolution but rather seeks to appease the very capitalist powers intent on the destruction of these gains: for proletarian political revolution! The contradictions of the "socialist market economy" will be resolved either by the intervention of the working class to stop capitalist restoration and extend socialist revolution to the rest of Asia, or by the destruction of the workers state. Fundamentally what is necessary is the smashing of imperialism from within through workers revolution from the U.S. to Japan to Australia, led by revolutionary Trotskyist parties under the direction of a reforged Fourth International! The debt owed the heroic workers and peasants of Vietnam will only be repaid when proletarian state power has been established in the imperialist centres which now long to claw back what was wrenched from them 19 years ago. ■

# Protectionism...

(continued from page 1)

with America but also its concern that the emergence of any exclusionary economic trading bloc in Asia would lead the post-Cold War U.S. to become inward-looking. "Japanese officials insist a continued U.S. military presence is vital for the security and prosperity of Asia despite the end of the Cold War, a view shared by many Asian states."

(Meanwhile, whether or not Mahathir decides to attend the APEC summit slated to take place in Indonesia next November, he is working hard to line up allies for the EAEC and recently succeeded in winning the support of Philippine president Fidel Ramos.)

The Keating/Mahathir affair also underscored the excruciating dilemma of Australian capitalism in the post-Cold War II period. As we noted earlier: "The problem of racist Australian imperialism is that its regional anti-Soviet allies are its historic Asian enemies" ("Hawke: Reagan's Deputy Sheriff in the South Pacific," *ASP* No. 120, May/June 1987). But now the strategic imperatives of the U.S.-driven anti-Soviet war drive have disappeared and the Australian ruling class have a different problem: all-out trade war between Japan (its major trading partner) and the U.S. (upon whom it depends for "defence") spells disaster.

## Trade War, Racism, Capitalist Austerity

Since the Chinese Revolution of 1949 Australian "yellow peril" racism has been subsumed within anti-communism, and Australian troops were sent to fight counterrevolutionary wars from Korea to Vietnam, from Borneo to Malaya. However in World War II, the "threat from the north" was Japan, and it was fought on racialist lines, with a phoney veneer of "anti-fascism." Trotskyists took a revolutionary defeatist position in this inter-imperialist war over markets and colonies, while defending the USSR against German imperialism. After the war—the turning point in Australia's change of imperialist master from Britain to the U.S.—the deeply traumatised and vengeful Australian bourgeoisie demanded the Japanese emperor be hanged and would have liked the country ploughed over with salt so that it might never rise again. The Australians reluctantly agreed to U.S. plans to rebuild Japan as an anti-Soviet bulwark in exchange for guarantees of protection under the ANZUS treaty and Canberra has since always been deeply ambivalent about the resurgence of Japanese imperialism.

Australia's post-war prosperity was nonetheless built heavily on its new trade relationship with Japan—supplying much of the coal and iron ore for the steel that made the Toyotas and Nissans that routed their American and European competitors. It was, during this boom period, able to carry a highly protected, uncompetitive and increasingly outmoded manufacturing industry.

Historically the twin pillars of White Australia capitalism have been anti-Asian

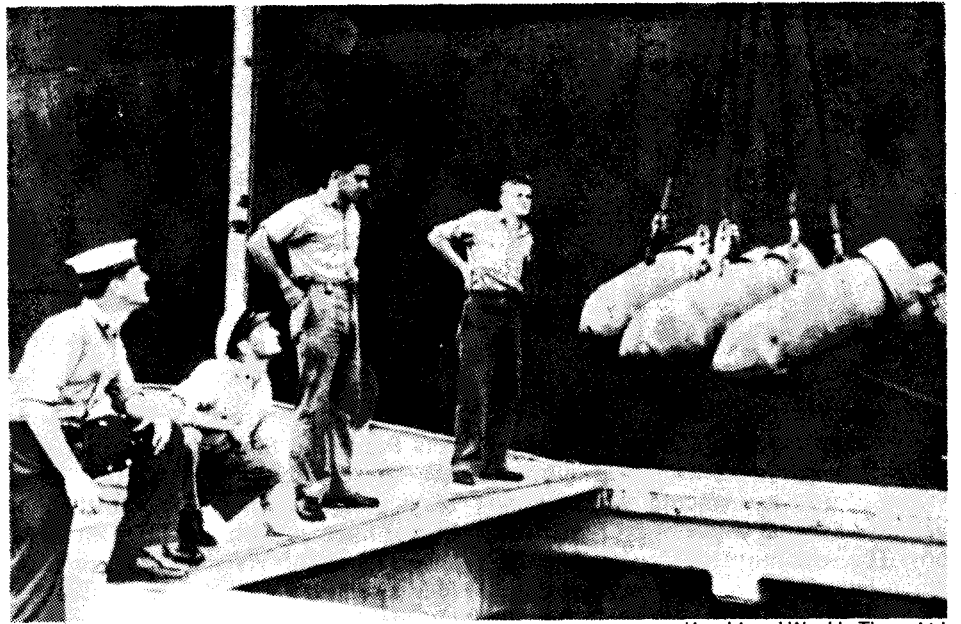
immigration restrictions and high tariff barriers. But this has been coming unstuck for some time now. In the early 1980s, the Hawke/Keating Labor government undertook several fundamental economic policy reforms—it drastically lowered tariffs, floated the Australian dollar on the international money markets (precipitating a decline in the currency but rendering Australian exports cheaper) and opened the financial markets to foreign banks in order to attract capital investment from overseas. One immediate result of these policies was widespread layoffs, as inefficient Australian firms failed in the face of foreign competition, with many going under or drastically reducing the workforce. Today, 32 of the top 40 companies in Australia are foreign-owned; unemployment stands at a whopping official 11.1 percent.

In an attempt to make Australian exports more "competitive," the Labor government embarked on a renewed union-busting assault against major industrial unions such as the wharfies, the miners and metropolitan transport workers—for example, the traditionally militant Melbourne trammies. (As we go to press, Australian Stevedores bosses have threatened to sack the entire Sydney workforce of 540 in a vicious attempt to bust the waterfront workers' union altogether; see box page four). Keating's "industrial relations" czar Laurie Breton moaned that the country has "a poor reputation in many parts of Asia for industrial action" and proceeded to announce that "vital peace will have to be kept a lot longer before our image of industrial conflict is broken" (*Australian Financial Review*, 8 December). The Keating government's strategy to "enmesh" with Asia entails not only cosmetic facelifts for international consumption—pretending to redress the vicious racist oppression and dispossession of the Aboriginal people and finally moving to sever ties with the British monarchy—but a full-bore attack on the wages, living standards and conditions of the working class.

In this, the Labor government relies on its labour lieutenants of capital in the trade-union bureaucracy to keep the lid on worker unrest. The bureaucrats' protectionist schemes are key and complement the vile Aussie nationalism which is the ALP's stock-in-trade. Thus, the "Buy Australian," "Proudly Made in Australia," "All-Australian-Owned" hype finds its echo in the miners union misleadership which preaches that the main enemy is price-squeezing Japanese importers, not the Australian mine bosses who have laid siege to miners' jobs and conditions. As miners gear up for a series of 24-hour rolling stoppages over job security in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, United Mine Workers head John Maitland played the anti-Japanese protectionist card again: "We've worked hard over the last 10 years to improve the image of the industry, to introduce new work practices, to raise the skills of our workers, and all that is lost by producers capitulating to the threats

bosses. But the reality is that the Australian bosses are hell-bent on breaking the unions in order to further exploit the labour force "at home" and abroad in order to "compete" within Asia.

**Wharfies: strike to win!** There is no lack of desire to fight on the part of the working people. What is needed is a hard class-struggle mobilisation against the bosses' offensive on the road to smashing the whole rotting capitalist system. Shut down the ports! Bring out the whole union—including the seamen! A solid maritime strike would find a powerful echo among the embattled miners and others—it would tell the union-busting bosses and their Labor lackeys where to shove it! Break with the Labor traitors—build a revolutionary workers party! ■



Herald and Weekly Times Ltd

1953: Wharfies refused to load ships bound for Vietnam during French colonial war in Indochina. Australian government had to use Navy scabs.

of the Japanese" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 February).

Integrally linked to the nationalist perspective of the Laborite union bureaucracy is the whole edifice of corporatist, class-collaborationist structures designed to stifle struggle: the Arbitration courts, the Industrial Relations Commission, the Accord. *Bury Arbitration—Smash the Accord!*

Protectionism goes hand in hand with the myth of a partnership between labour and capital in the name of the "national interest." As the wretched song now aired on TV with Orwellian repetition goes: "We are one, we are Australian"—but we are not one! As the bosses know well, the exigencies of capitalist "competition" require not a retreat into an Australian laager of tariff barriers but rather the *ruthless heightening of exploitation of the working class—"at home" and throughout the region—combined with throwing large numbers of workers onto the scrap heap for life.* Nationalism and protectionism are used by the bosses to line up the workers against their Asian class brothers and sisters for trade war which could well lead to a new imperialist slaughter. The only way out is the road of workers revolution, linking up with socialist revolution in Asia, particularly its Japanese industrial powerhouse, to establish an internationally planned socialist division of labour.

In 1921 the Communist International of Lenin and Trotsky issued an appeal for the workers united front, noting:

"The world economic crisis is growing more acute. Unemployment is increasing. In practically every country international capital has gone over to a systematic offensive against the workers, as shown primarily in the fairly open efforts of the capitalists to reduce wages and to lower the workers' entire standard of life."

The Comintern's Third Congress earlier that year approved the theses "On Tactics", which stated in part: "In place of the minimum programme of the centrists and reformists, the Communist International offers a struggle for the concrete demands of the proletariat which, in their totality, challenge the power of the bourgeoisie, organize the proletariat and mark out the different stages of the struggle for its dictatorship." Such a program today would entail the fight for a *sliding scale of working hours*, to divide the available work among all workers (including the unemployed), with no loss in pay. To ward off the ravages of inflation, we demand a *sliding scale of wages*. Full employment, jobs for all, however requires a *planned economy based on collectivised property* established by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, expropriating the bourgeoisie through the creation of a workers government, i.e., *the dictatorship of the proletariat*.

Such a fighting, *internationalist* program and perspective can combat the nationalism and treachery of the Laborite bureaucracy which exploded, for instance, in a 1988 demonstration at Port Melbourne against Japanese cement

imports. Having been given a paid day off by the bosses and mobilised by the AWU tops, some 400 cement workers, armed with cement bombs, attacked Japanese seamen and local wharfies gathered to unload a Japanese ship. And racist, nationalist poison is the filth upon which the fascist bands feed. It is an ominous sign that in heavily unemployed and heavily immigrant Werriwa in the western suburbs of Sydney the recent by-election produced more than seven percent of the vote for something calling itself "Australians Against Further Immigration." It is the duty of the multi-racial organised working class to mobilise mass, militant action against fascist provocations and to lead the fight for *full citizenship rights for all foreign-born workers*.

The conditions of Cambodian refugees held in concentration camps at Port Hedland in West Australia and Sydney's Villawood are draconian, harsh and proof positive of the racism which is the bedrock of Labor-ruled Australia. Moved and disturbed over the incarceration of these refugees in Villawood, young David Kang—a 23-year-old university student of Korean-Australian background—rushed the podium where the "chinless wonder," Prince Charles, was addressing an official Australia Day ceremony. (The chinless one was among the many dignitaries to whom Kang had written on behalf of the refugees; faced with official stonewalling, he made his Australia Day statement.) Kang carried only a starting pistol—virtually a toy gun—and put no one at risk but himself in his desperate act to call attention to the plight of the imprisoned "boat people." Subsequently, the government has dropped the most serious criminal charges against Kang but have sentenced him to an indefinite period behind the walls of a psychiatric hospital. This is an outrage!

While his individual act of desperation is manifestly not the Marxist way, we feel a sense of moral solidarity with David Kang's purpose. Not only is White Australia "unique" in its unspeakable treatment of Asian refugees, but the heir to the British throne is a walking provocation, symbolising the class hierarchy and privilege which has meant the bloody oppression of the colonial masses, not least in Asia, since the days of Empire. Down with the monarchy—recall the fate of Charles II! Stop the victimisation of David Kang—let him go now! Close Keating's concentration camps!

## The Main Enemy is at Home!

Inter-imperialist competition for trade and markets has been accompanied by military moves as the imperialist powers gear up to defend their spheres of influence. The U.S. used its military superiority over its major rivals to bloody effect with the Desert Storm slaughter and subjugation of semi-colonial Iraq in 1991, guaranteeing the American stranglehold on vital oil supplies. Germany and Japan both recently used United Nations "humanitarian" missions (the former to Somalia, the latter to Cambodia) to

# Wharfies...

(continued from page 4)

class action and concrete acts of internationalism. In the 1940s they took action in support of the independence struggle of the Indonesian masses; in the early 1970s wharfies banned military shipments in solidarity with the Vietnamese workers and peasants in their heroic struggle against U.S./Australian imperialism."

The potential allies of the wharfies are many: for a start, there are the miners now striking against job losses and worsening conditions. John Maitland and the rest of the bureaucrats running the miners union seek to turn this struggle into a reactionary, nationalist showdown aimed against Japanese

# Aboriginal Rights...

(continued from page 12)

immense social power of the organised working class to the struggle of all the oppressed, on the road to workers rule. This perspective was raised uniquely by the Spartacist League at the November 17 demos from Melbourne to Sydney to Brisbane. And it was demonstrated in action when we mobilised workers and students alongside Aborigines to bust a racist ban at the Student Prince Hotel in Sydney last May.

## Wilcannia: "Reconciliation" Keating-style

Not a week after Keating's "historic" Native Title Act passed, the tiny far western New South Wales town of Wilcannia, population 900, became national news following the third pitched battle there between cops and Aborigines within two months. The Aboriginal population of 750, who face unemployment well over 90 percent, have been subjected to a massive campaign of police terror and harassment. Last year Aboriginal people were detained over 20,000 times for "drunkenness" alone! With routine use of batons by the cops and generalised brutality, Aboriginal people have been driven to the wall.

Keating & Co. worried that this bad press would make his "reconciliation" look like the farce that it is, so the media began churning out features on "the problems of crime and alcohol" amongst the Aboriginal population. Murdoch's *Australian* (5 January) pressed Aboriginal leaders to join the cops' campaign against "a small number of Aborigines [who have] been responsible for most of the trouble." The *Sydney Morning Herald* (6 January), admitting that Wilcannia typifies so many country towns, wrote: "what makes reconciliation Wilcannia-style so important is that if it doesn't work, the other, more common form reconciliation takes will only ever be a thin facade for a simmering race problem where it truly matters."

Just what is meant by "reconciliation Wilcannia-style" we can only guess! Massive unemployment; unequal wages; homelessness; lack of health and education services; official state terror and

racist rampage; dispossession from and theft of their land: these form the core of the oppression of Aborigines and will not be solved as long as the capitalist class rules. Under some ten years of Labor Party rule these conditions have in fact worsened and the promise many felt to be held out by the initial *Mabo* High Court ruling was turned into Keating's "package" accommodating the pastoralists, bankers, mining companies and state governments—putting a stamp on what amounts to the racist status quo.

## Laborite Leftists and "Colour Blind" Bandits

Since the ALP's knifing of Aborigines through the *Mabo* "deal"; Dan Yock's death and the subsequent cover-up launched in Labor-run Queensland; rising levels of police violence in the towns and cities, there is a justified sense of outrage at the perceived "betrayals" of the Labor Party. And the ALP's "left" hangers-on have jumped to the rescue. The Laborite anti-communists of the International Socialist Organisation (ISO) crowed that "Paul Keating's speech in Redfern Park last December [1992] was a great start to the Year of Indigenous People" and lament "Why did the Royal Commission fail?" (*Socialist*, December 1993). To this day the ISO has not stopped bleating for Keating to implement the recommendations of this racist whitewash.

Perhaps nothing better shows the colours of the ISO than their headline over black deaths in custody: "Labor's shame" (*Socialist*, December 1993). Labor's policy is more like it, but for the ISO the problem with the death of over 150 Aborigines at the hands of the state is that it makes the ALP look bad! At the Sydney demonstration over Dan Yock's death, top ISO waterboy for the Laborites, Phil Griffiths, pulled the plug on the speech delivered by the Spartacist speaker—herself Aboriginal and one of the initiators of the Student Prince action. This had everything to do with stifling our political attack on the ALP.

On the other hand the Australian outfit of David North's sinister International Committee (IC), the Socialist Labour League (SLL), claim to stand in "revolutionary" opposition to the ALP. You'd never guess that for decades they called for a "Labor government with socialist policies." Now the Northites simply dismiss the ALP as a "corporatist agency of

capitalism" while the *trade unions* are for them no longer workers organisations. As a virulently anti-Soviet outfit throughout Cold War II, the SLL has extended the bourgeois lie of the "death of communism" to its analogue, the "death of unionism." But their obedience to the misleaders of the working class remains constant: writing off the unions' potential to act in pursuit of the class struggle and kowtowing to the pro-capitalist bureaucracy are flip sides of the same coin. Both variants exclude a communist political struggle within the unions.

Another thing that remains constant with this dubious outfit is its political banditry. Here's an outfit whose U.S. co-thinkers in Detroit, 1992, blocked with a racist, segregationist campaign to keep the Malcolm X elementary school out of a white enclave in the city, proclaiming that "the issue in Warrendale is not race." Here, the Northites decided that there was *nothing* defensible in the *Mabo* decision's quashing of *terra nullius* and pandered to the most backward prejudices by insisting that the question posed by land rights was the ability of some "middle class Aborigines" to line their pockets in a bid for a "black capitalist future" (and a communist plot to boot)! In its "polemics" with what they inevitably call "middle class radical" opponents on the left, the Northites sneer at those who think police attacks on Aboriginal youth are a racial question; their American counterparts see in the Spartacist League's commitment to build black leadership, our view that the black working class is strategic to the success of the proletarian revolution in the U.S. an "obsession with race."

The Northites' revolting "blind eye" to racism is nothing new; from their inception they tailored their program to the most reactionary prejudices of the trade-union bureaucracy. Their line is something much worse than even the Debsian position that the socialist movement has "nothing special to offer the Negro." But, in the aftermath of Daniel Yock's death, the SLL's *Workers News* (28 January) announced its very own "workers inquiry": "Only such an inquiry will disclose the truth...and lay bare the social conditions which lie behind this and other brutal attacks on working class youth!"

*Don't buy it.* Who's investigating the investigators? The sordid record of this

highly dubious outfit provides grounds for a working-class investigation. The Northite IC has offered itself up as rent-a-pimps for everything from oil-rich Near Eastern despots to fascist Vietnamese *contras*. North's erstwhile British mentors supplied information on Iraqi Communists to the bloody Ba'athist regime in Baghdad and then defended its execution of 21 Iraqi Communists in 1979. Here, they duly received funds to print the fascist Vietnamese-language *Bell of Saigon* which instigated fascist terror in 1985 against left and labour meetings called to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Vietnamese Revolution.

In addition, the Northites have a bad habit of scabbing, dragging left and labour organisations into the bosses' courts, slander and character assassination that would make J.V. Stalin blush and just plain old physical thuggery against the left. We have scrupulously documented the Northites' crimes against the socialist movement and have made available a collection of various articles from our international press in a packet entitled: "What is the Socialist Labour League? The Trail of Treachery."

Neither the Labor loyalists of the ISO nor the cynical charlatans of the SLL offer a program to mobilise the working class in struggle for the rights of Aborigines and all the oppressed. That program means using the weapons of the class struggle—strikes, demonstrations and ultimately insurrection—to fight for jobs and social services, for elementary democratic rights including land rights, in defence of immigrant workers and all the oppressed, in opposition to imperialist militarism and in defence of the gains of the anti-capitalist revolutions from Vietnam to China to North Korea. Such a struggle necessitates a sharp political battle against the ALP and the Laborite union bureaucracy, splitting the working-class base from the chauvinist, pro-capitalist tops. It is in the course of this fight that a multiracial revolutionary workers party will be forged—an internationalist party capable of leading the working class to power. With the victorious overthrow of this system and the establishment of a truly egalitarian society based on centrally planned, collectivised property, we will avenge the many victims and martyrs of racist state terror. ■

break constitutional bans on sending troops abroad. Senior Japanese leaders have recently begun openly talking of developing nuclear weapons capacity (supposedly to deal with the "threat" from North Korea; see "Imperialist Hands Off North Korea," page 3).

The *Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter* annual reference edition (December 1993/January 1994) carried a lengthy piece on the recent Kuala Lumpur meeting which agreed to establish a Council for Security Co-operation in the Asia Pacific, noting that: "In particular, there is a general apprehension throughout the region concerning the pace, scope and extent of the US drawdown and the future of the US economic and strategic commitment to the region."

Concomitantly, as the *Sydney Morning Herald* (11 December) reported, "a fundamental rethink of defence strategy" is being pushed by "intelligence advisers" to the Federal Government concerned that Australia's "clear military superiority in the region may soon be challenged." This is connected to the fact that Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines are embarking on defence increases, "partly due to their concerns about the rapidly growing economic power of China, the tensions in Korea and the possibility of increasing disagreements between Japan, the United States and China."

One Alan Wrigley, former director-general of ASIO, put it bluntly: "With the demise of the superpower balance and its ANZUS security blanket, we have never been so remote from the military

presence of strong friends with whom we felt a comfortable cultural affinity and trust" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 January). Australia's "comfortable cultural affinity" with British and American imperialism in the region has meant its eager participation not only in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, but as well in the CIA's "destabilisation" operation aiding the bloodthirsty 1965 slaughter of one half million Indonesian Communists and worker militants and the draconian "emergency" against the Communist-led insurgency in Malaya, 1948-60. Australian jacked imperialism intends to maintain itself as a counterrevolutionary regional gendarme in the Asian Pacific. The Australian Air Force base near Penang, Malaysia and the U.S. bases within Australia—the spy satellite ground stations at Pine Gap and Nurrungar and the Omega station in East Gippsland, Victoria—are part and parcel of this role. An elementary demand for revolutionists is that *Australia get out of Malaysia and the U.S. bases get out of Australia!*

In the face of the threat of sanctions and war against the North Korean deformed workers state and the imperialists' counterrevolutionary designs in Indochina and China the *unconditional military defence of China, Vietnam and North Korea* is urgently posed. The imperialists want to return to the days when Asia was carved up amongst the colonial powers and the working people bled white in order to fill the coffers of the bankers and merchants in the capitalist centres. The gains of the anti-capitalist revolutions in

China, Vietnam and North Korea stand today as an obstacle to this project: they must be extended throughout the region. That requires a proletarian political revolution ousting the nationalist bureaucracies and a return to the road of Lenin and Trotsky.

In the context of inter-imperialist rivalry, we say: *the main enemy is at home!* Suffering first under the yoke of European colonialism and now under neo-colonial police-state regimes, the toiling masses of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are allies of a revolutionary workers struggle to smash Australian imperialism from within. Today the workers of Indonesia are waging, through widespread strike action, a struggle against the meagre wages and miserable conditions imposed by the Soeharto regime. While millions sweat out a living in the factories of Tangerang in West Java for below-subsistence wages, the conditions in the countryside and villages is yet worse. Some 80 percent of pregnant women and children under five years of age are under-nourished. The number of farming households with less than 0.5 hectare of land increased from 9.53 in 1983 to 10.4 million in 1993. The situation cries out for a struggle by the Indonesian proletariat, at the head of the hideously oppressed women, agricultural labourers, peasants and youth, to sweep away the local capitalists and landlords who serve the imperialist masters. And for the socialist revolution to survive it is necessary to *extend* it beyond the national borders, throughout the region and internationally.

This is the perspective of *permanent revolution*—Trotsky's prognosis confirmed in the October 1917 revolution in Russia where only the dictatorship of the proletariat could solve the questions of land and peace, as well as liberating oppressed nations from tsarist rule. There have since been countless negative examples of the necessity of the independent working class led by its revolutionary vanguard to break the chains of imperialism and neo-colonial oppression: from the tragedy of the Chinese Revolution in 1927 to the Indonesian massacre in 1965. Throughout the Pacific Asian region today, the possibilities for revolutionary upheaval are manifest. The combative proletariat of South Korea have and will soon again erupt in major class battles. The powerful, strategic Japanese working class is destined to play the decisive role in shattering imperialism in Asia and the Pacific. What is urgently required is the construction of Leninist-Trotskyist parties, working as disciplined sections of a genuinely communist International.

It is to the best internationalist traditions of the Australian labour movement—which took concrete actions in solidarity with the struggle of the Indonesian masses against Dutch colonialism and the heroic Vietnamese workers and peasants' victorious struggle for liberation against U.S./Australian imperialism—that we look in our struggle to forge the Australian section of a reformed Fourth International, world party of socialist revolution. *For a workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!* ■



## M.L. King Day in the U.S.: Klan Provocations in 8 States

# Anti-Racist Protesters Confront KKK

The following article has been reprinted from *Workers Vanguard* No. 592, 21 January 1994. As we note at the conclusion: "The outpouring of support from trade unionists from as far away as Italy and Japan shows the recognition that the fascist threat is for real." *Australasian Spartacist* and the Partisan Defence Committee would like to thank the following endorsers from Australia: Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee (Sydney), Jacob Bilander, member, Iciek Witenberg Study Group\* (Caulfield), Communications Workers Union of Australia, Telecommunication & Services, Victorian Branch (Collingwood), Don Gunn, New South Wales Assistant Secretary, Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance\* (Sydney), Christopher James Lee, General Manager, National Indigenous Media Association of Australia\* (Brisbane), Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Media Association (Queensland), Wayne Morris Wharton, General Manager, Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Media Association (Queensland).

\*Organisational affiliation for identification purposes only.

CHICAGO—Aided, abetted and protected by a massive show of armed police force, the Ku Klux Klan staged racist



WV Photo

Springfield, Illinois, 16 January: Hundreds answer call for union/black mobilisation to stop fascist KKK.

provocations in eight state capitals on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. But despite the cop mobilizations, and major efforts by liberals to "ignore the Klan," wherever the cowardly nightriders came out into the daylight, they were confronted by outraged anti-fascists. In Austin, Texas, some 2,000 people took

to the streets, drowning out the racist filth being spewed by 33 KKKers and delivering the message loud and clear: "Hey Sheehead, Go Home!" In Denver, Little Rock, Montgomery, Tallahassee, Columbus and Topeka, hundreds came out to oppose the murderous white supremacists.

The focal point of the battle against the Klan provocations became Springfield, Illinois, where uniquely a struggle was waged to mobilize the social power of organized labor and the black community. This was met by a frenzied response from the government and those

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## For a Class-Struggle Fight for Aboriginal Rights!

# Labor's "Reconciliation" Means Racist State Terror

Great fanfare accompanied the 1993 United Nation's "Year of Indigenous Peoples." As "UN" troops engaged in racist barbarism against the people of Somalia and flooded Cambodia as part of an imperialist counterrevolutionary thrust into Indochina, Mandawuy Yunupingu was crowned "Australian of the Year." Keating's Native Title Act, passed in December, was proclaimed an "historic turning point" for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, part of the Labor PM's "historic mission" of "reconciling black and white Australia." But the reality for the deeply oppressed indigenous peoples of this country is one of increasing racist cop terror, "Third World" poverty and a land-rights scam that offers absolutely nothing to the more than 90 percent of Aborigines long since driven from their traditional lands.

So thin is the veneer spread over the White Australia capitalist reality that footballer Nicky Winmar was even banned by his St. Kilda club bosses from playing with the Aboriginal All Stars in the "historic reconciliation" match—a game inspired by Winmar's own courageous on-field defiance of redneck racists last year. But the brutal reality of Keating's "social justice" is best reflected in the death of 18-year-old Daniel Yock at the hands of the Queensland cops and the grinding poverty, police terror and hopeless misery typified by Wilcannia.

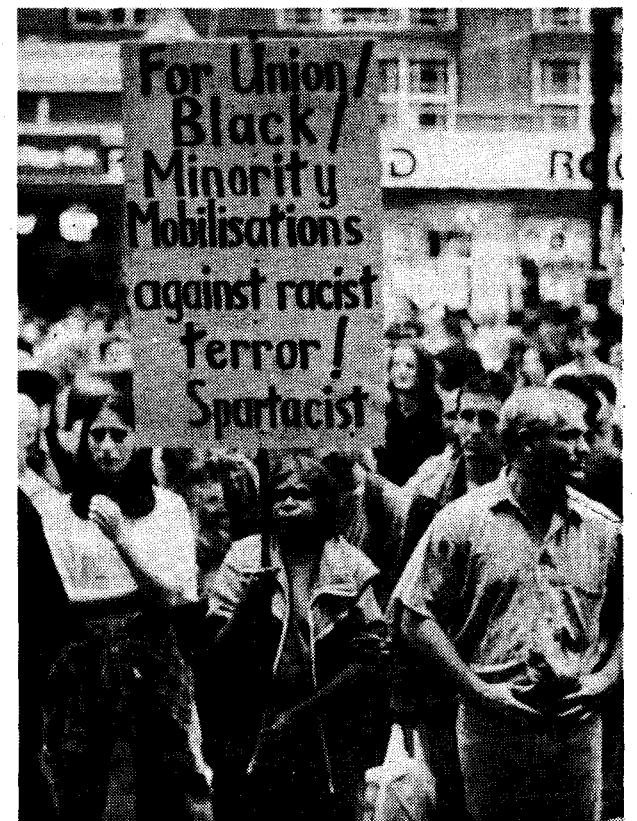
### Down With CJC Whitewash! Avenge Daniel Yock!

Daniel Yock died handcuffed face-down in the back of a police van in Brisbane on 7 November, shortly after he was attacked and arrested by cops for no reason other than the colour of his skin. He became the latest fatality in a gruesome list of over 150 Abor-

igines to die in police custody over the last ten years. An outraged demonstration of 250 Aborigines in Brisbane the next day left several cops' noses bloodied and ensured that Queensland's Goss Labor government could not simply disappear Daniel Yock's death as it has done with so many black deaths in custody. With nationwide demonstrations called to protest Yock's death, Goss moved quickly to defuse the rage by calling yet another lying "inquiry."

This time the whitewash is being run by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), a super police body. The head of the inquiry, Lew Wyvill, was a commissioner of the notorious Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody which whitewashed the cops in every one of the 99 cases it investigated, from the racist murder of John Pat to that of Lloyd Boney and David Gundy. The CJC inquiry predictably proceeded to intimidate and discredit witnesses, from the outset refusing to entertain charges against the police. Meanwhile on Brisbane's streets, the cops stepped up their racist vendetta: terrorising an Aboriginal concert in November; violently storming an Aboriginal hostel in January. Now five participants in the demonstration the day after Yock's death face charges: *hands off the protesters!* A special new riot squad has been set up specifically to target Aboriginal youth who, according to Queensland's top cop, wander the town "like wild dingoes."

From the start, the job of the CJC "inquiry" was to cover for the racist cops, by among other things co-opting Aboriginal leaders in order to cool widespread anger. Indeed, the leadership of the 17 November Brisbane march, working with city authorities to ensure that cool prevailed, imposed a silent march on the



ASp Photo

Melbourne 17 November protest over killing of Daniel Yock.

5,000 participants. We warned that the CJC inquiry could be nothing but a whitewash, just as we did with the Royal Commission before it. This is because as Marxists we understand that the capitalist state—the courts, cops and government, whether run by Labor or Liberal—serves a profit system built upon the dispossession and genocide of the indigenous population and exclusion of Asians. It is racist to the core. It cannot be reformed, it will never provide "justice" for the exploited and oppressed; it must be smashed by victorious workers revolution.

Against the Laborite reformists and liberals who seek to pressure the state to act as a guardian of classless "justice and democracy," our perspective is that of a working-class fight for Aboriginal rights, linking the

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