

Canada's Somalia Murder Mission



Paul Ferguson

Canadian "peacekeepers": Racist killers take aim at Horn of Africa.

Bloody Imperialist Hands Off Africa, the Balkans!

FEBRUARY 25—The cascade of revelations about torture and murder of civilians by Canadian troops in Somalia has laid bare the ugly reality of Canada's so-called humanitarian "peace-keeping" missions. Grisly photographs have now surfaced as evidence in the court-martial of one of the killers of 16-year-old Shidane Arone last March. These show Canadian Airborne Regiment soldiers tying up, hitting and kicking the Somali youth, shoving a riot baton in his mouth and then striking poses above his battered body.

A witness described how one sadistic trooper burned the soles of Arone's feet with a lit cigar. The tortured youth cried "Canada, Canada, Canada," his screams echoing across the desert camp in Belet Huen. When he was "found" in his cell afterwards, Arone was blindfolded and trussed, bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth and having difficulty breathing. Ten minutes later he was dead, having survived less than two hours at the hands of the Canadian Airborne Regiment psychopaths.

Senior Canadian officers *explicitly approved* this brutal racist torture. The court-martial in Petawawa was told that Airborne officers authorized troops that same day to "rough up" and "abuse" any Somali "intruders" in the Canadian army compound. One officer told his soldiers to "beat the shit out of them."

Just a month before this gruesome murder, Canadian troops fired into a crowd demonstrating against the United Nations

invasion of their country. Then two other Somalis were shot down as they tried to flee the Canadian compound; one of them was murdered with a shotgun blast in the back as he lay wounded on the ground. More massacres have followed, carried out by other UN forces in Mogadishu, though the imperialist marauders have had scores of their own killed and wounded as lightly armed Somalis fight back hard. On January 31, U.S. soldiers killed at least 16 people when they fired into a Mogadishu food line.

"Humanitarian" Cover for Neo-Colonial Terror

The "humanitarian" mission in Somalia was plain imperialist rape from day one, with so-called "relief" of mass starvation providing only the thinnest of covers. From the outset we opposed the imperialist invasion, calling for "U.S., Canadian Troops Out!" A year ago we warned: "No doubt many in Somalia and elsewhere believe that the U.S. presence can only be beneficial since things could scarcely get any worse. Yet ultimately, direct American intervention in Africa can only result in increased oppression and exploitation of the African people" ("U.S., Canadian Troops Out of Somalia!" SC No. 90, Winter 1992/93).

Now the new Chrétien Liberal government would like to sweep the Somali horrors under the Tory rug. But their racist

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“Law and Order” Parliament Targets Mohawks

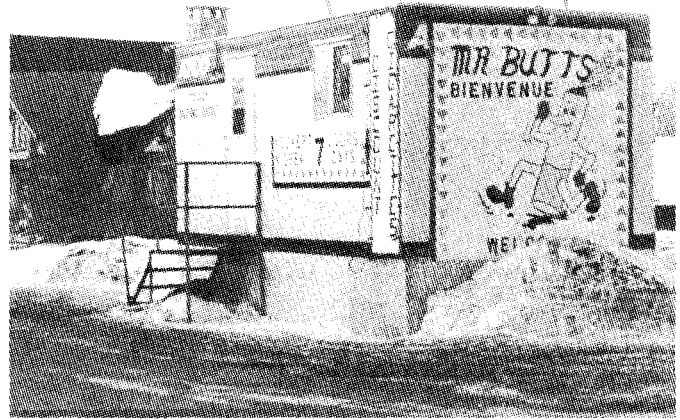
Cigarettes and Bourgeois Hypocrisy

In February, a commercial foray by Native bands in Southern Ontario and Quebec into the supply-and-demand world of the capitalist “free market” resulted in something most working Canadians never thought they’d live to see: a tax cut.

For years, the federal and provincial governments have jacked up “sin taxes” on cigarettes and alcohol, looting *billions* from the pockets of working and poor people trying to enjoy some simple pleasures. Any first-year economics student could predict the result: a thriving black market. By early this year, cheap cigarettes were being brought in by the truck, boat and snowmobile-load through the border-straddling Mohawk Akwesasne reserve near Cornwall, Ontario. In Quebec, three-quarters of all cigarettes were being purchased in the “unofficial economy.”

Prime Minister Chrétien fumed: “Every time you light up, you are supporting gangs that have committed murders and car bombings, that are smuggling illegal drugs into Canada, that are terrorizing entire communities.” What racist hypocrisy. More than one ruling-class Canadian family made its fortune running booze to the U.S. during Prohibition. (Just ask the Bronfmans.) Today the capitalist press lauds the “initiative” of all manner of pirates and black-market “biznessmen” in post-Soviet Russia. Yet, having condemned Native people to destitution on the reserves, Canada’s rich white rulers tremble with indignation that some of them are making money in such time-honored fashion.

On February 8, under pressure from the foundering Quebec Liberal government of Daniel Johnson, Chrétien announced the tax cut. Now, deprived of a huge source of revenue, the government is literally gunning for the Native entrepreneurs. Amid chauvinist tirades and vows to “get tough” on “organized crime,” Ottawa is implementing an ominous series of measures to reinforce the repressive apparatus of the state. Akwesasne is under siege. The RCMP force around the reserve is being boosted to 700 men, and contingency plans for raids and a government takeover are ready. With Chrétien declaring “‘No Go’ areas are not acceptable in Canada,” the Mohawks of Akwesasne, and others at Kahnawake and Kanasatake near



Christopher Morris/Maclean's

Cigarette stand on Kahnawake reserve near Montreal. Government: Butt out! Hands off the Mohawks!

Montreal, have good reason to be worried.

The ruling class in this country burns to avenge their 1990 humiliation at Oka. For two months armed Mohawks held off the Quebec Sûreté and then the Canadian army to stop their historic burial ground from being turned into a golf course. As we did then, we demand again today: Cops and troops, get out and stay out of the reserves! Native peoples should have the right to conduct their own affairs on their land.

The nationalists of the Bloc and Parti Québécois have led the charge against the Mohawks, seeking to line up the Québécois nation behind them through anti-Native racism. When a few corner-store owners were arrested for selling contraband smokes, PQ leader Jacques Parizeau took up their defense by thundering against the “real smugglers.” One shouldn’t treat these shopkeepers, he said, “like the Mohawk of Jonquière. Tobacco must be intercepted where it comes in, and it’s the RCMP that must be there.” So these *indépendantistes* want to see the *federal* cops stick it to the Mohawks—but stay away from *nos pauvres dépanneurs*.

Chrétien’s tax cut was immediately denounced by the right-wing Anglo-chauvinists of the Reform Party who saw the “smuggling crisis” as an opportunity to get *both* Quebec and the Natives. Reform was joined by Bob Rae’s Ontario NDP government which stirred the cauldron of anti-Quebec chauvinism, warning Chrétien that Ottawa would “have a hell of a lot of trouble” if it took “its mandate from regional concerns in the province of Quebec.” Thus the English-Canadian social democrats openly bloc with the racist Reform Party, inflaming in turn the increasingly gross racism of the leading Quebec nationalists.

This ugly chauvinist vise is a trap for working people. Only the unconditional defense of Quebec’s right to independence can lay the basis for *uniting* the working class against the common capitalist enemy. Winning Québécois workers from the deadly embrace of the Bloc and PQ nationalists requires a determined struggle by English-speaking working people against their “own” anti-Quebec rulers.

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Cracks in the "New World Order"

Revolt Against NAFTA Shakes Mexico

The peasant rebellion of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, which burst into the open on January 1, the day the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect, shot holes in the imperialists' celebration of a "New World Order." The brutal oppression of the Mexican masses was laid bare, and the ensuing bloody massacre by the army showed that death squad repression is not a thing of the past. At the same time, the revolt was dramatic proof that radical social struggle against the capitalist exploiters and their state is far from dead.

Over the following weeks, there were protests against the Mexican government repression in cities throughout North America. Supporters of the Spartacist League/U.S. and Trotskyist League of Canada joined demonstrations with signs emphasizing the responsibility of the North American imperialists for the slaughter in southern Mexico. Indeed, the helicopters which ferried Mexican troops to the killing grounds in Chiapas were supplied by the Pentagon.

Protest organizers in Canada tried to channel deeply felt revulsion at the Mexican army's bloodbath into appeals for the Canadian government to "pressure" Mexico to observe "principles of human rights and social justice." The idea of looking to the capitalist rulers in Ottawa—who mobilized the army against the Mohawks at Oka, who rained down death on the people of Iraq—as an exemplar of "human rights" is worse than bankrupt. In contrast, Trotskyist League supporters on demonstrations in Vancouver and Toronto emphasized opposition to our "own" imperialist bourgeoisie, calling on the workers of Canada, U.S. and Mexico to unite in joint class struggle, for "Socialist Revolution from the Yukon to Yucatán."

In Mexico City, on January 13 the largest anti-government demonstration in half a decade marched on the Zócalo, the huge square in front of the presidential palace. Up to 100,000 protesters denounced the Mexican president, chanting "Salinas assassin!" and "Viva Zapata!" recalling the hero of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-17 who was slain by the northern ranchers who seized power and draped themselves in "revolutionary" rhetoric as they exploited the peasants and workers. Our comrades of the Grupo Espartaquista de México (GEM) participated in this and other protests, calling on the workers to defend the EZLN insurgents and demand that the army get out of Chiapas.

The dominant political force in the Mexico City protest was the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), the nationalist opposition led by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. While calling for

dialogue with the EZLN rebels, Cárdenas has gone out of his way to absolve the army of responsibility for the killing. In the face of the mass protest and above all the wide sympathy that the Zapatista rebellion has received in the U.S., Salinas fired his minister of the interior, a notoriously brutal former governor of Chiapas, and called for reconciliation.



AP
Mexican guerrillas launched rebellion in southern state of Chiapas on January 1 in protest over imperialist "free trade" rape of Mexico.

Still, Mexican troops continue to pour into the region, carrying out sweeps among the Mayan Indian peoples of Chiapas. Despite the massive deployment of troops, the Zapatista rebels managed to retreat in order, briefly seizing a number of towns on the way. But to stop the imperialist rape of Mexico and the brutal oppression of its worker and peasant masses, it is necessary to mobilize the millions-strong Mexican proletariat and their class brothers and sisters throughout North America in sharp class struggle against our common capitalist enemies.

The following statement by the Grupo Espartaquista de México, dated 6 January, was published in the Mexico City daily *El Día* on 8 January.

* * *

Twenty-five years after the Tlatelolco Massacre, a barbarous massacre is being carried out in Chiapas against the insurgent Indians and civilians. The bloody repression is being intensified at this moment with massive bombing, recalling scenes from the Yankee invasion of Panama and the "counterinsurgency" war in El Salvador. The Grupo Espartaquista de México (GEM) demands: Stop the bombing! Stop the massacre! Army out of Chiapas!

The revolt in Chiapas attracted worldwide attention, giving
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Defend Vancouver Anti-Fascists!

It is a measure of the increasingly xenophobic political climate that in the February 7 *Maclean's*, an article on immigration to Vancouver portrayed the notorious Jud Cyllorn as a mainstream (if right-wing) "critic" of Canada's immigration policy. As *SC* readers know, Cyllorn is not some run-of-the-mill right-wing ideologue. He is a dangerous racist and anti-Semite who acts in open alliance with known fascists.

At Cyllorn's behest the Vancouver police are trying to railroad six anti-fascist activists to jail on trumped-up charges of "assault." The Vancouver Six—five of whom are trade unionists—were among a diverse group of 60 protesters who mobilized last May 6 against a meeting of the white-supremacist "Canadian League of Rights" at Cyllorn's "Pro-Cult Institute." This united-front action, initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee and Trotskyist League, ensured that the fascist meeting was a bust. During the protest, demonstrators had to defend themselves against repeated Nazi provocation. Cyllorn admits arming himself with an iron bar that evening. Yet three months later the six anti-fascist protesters were arrested, following a ranting 13-page police "complaint" by the same Jud Cyllorn.

Maclean's politely portrays Cyllorn's book, *Stop Apologizing*, as a "polemic against Canada's immigration policy." But this self-published opus is a rabid 500-page diatribe against blacks, Natives, Jews, Asians and gays. Moreover, Cyllorn's connections with open fascists are legion:

Ron Gostick, whom he was hosting on May 6, is a founder

of the Canadian League of Rights, termed by the Canadian Jewish Congress "perhaps Canada's leading antisemitic organization." Attending Gostick's abortive meeting was Ernest Britskie, an open supporter of the deadly white-supremacist terrorist Aryan Nations. Lurking nearby was Tony McAleer, whose "Canadian Liberty Net" hate line has called to kill gay men. Cyllorn is also associated with David Irving and others who lie that Hitler's Nazis did not exterminate six million Jews and 11 million others. They "deny" the Holocaust because they want to perpetrate genocide again.

These fascists are fueled by the official racism which comes from the capitalist ruling class. The Liberals, like the Tories before them, are stepping up Ottawa's offensive against immigrants and refugees. They have given police the green light for increased violence against Asians, blacks, Natives and other minorities. Meanwhile, the NDP provincial governments play their own dirty part in fueling racist terror. Two years ago, the B.C. NDP government exonerated the racist cops who brutally beat Chinese immigrant Zhang Feng Hua. The labor movement must take up the cause of immigrants and refugees, demanding full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers and their families.

The state persecution of the Vancouver Six is clearly intended to intimidate all those who would actively oppose racist and fascist terror. It is no crime to stop the fascists! Beating back

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Drop the Charges Against the May 6th Anti-Fascist Protesters!

The following individuals and organizations have endorsed the above demand (partial list as of 26 February 1994):

Donna Abram, Staff Representative, College Instructors and Educators Association*, Vancouver

Robert W. Anwyll, Executive Board Member, Ontario Public Service Employees Union*, London, ON

Beth Beeson, Shop Steward, Telecommunications Workers Union Local 1*, Vancouver

Trevor Berry, National Director, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Pacific Region*

Raymond Betemps, Shop Steward, TWU Local 1*, Vancouver

Black Action Defense Committee, Toronto

Melina and Kevin Bowden, Vancouver

Robert S. Borch, National Director, CUPW*

Bal Brar, Shop Steward, CUPW Surrey Local*, BC

Ken Bryant, Vice President, Canadian Auto Workers Local 3020*, Burnaby, BC

Jim Buller, Toronto Typographical Union (CWA) #91*; Chair, Municipal Committee, Metro Toronto Labour Council*

Canadian Auto Workers Local 1859, Tillsonburg, ON

Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers Local 100, Burnaby, BC

Canadian Union of Educational Workers Local 3, North York, ON

Canadian Union of Postal Workers Toronto Local

Canadian Union of Postal Workers Vancouver Local

Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 391, Vancouver

Muriel Collins, Membership Secretary, CUPE Local 79*, Toronto

David Crain, President, CBRT Local 400*, Vancouver

Freedom Socialist Party/Parti Liberté Socialiste

Sonny Ghag, 2nd Vice President, IWA-Canada Local 1-3567*, New Westminster, BC

Ron Golemba, Associate Chief Steward, OPSEU Local 558*, Toronto

Max Halber, Past President, 411 Senior Centre Society*, Vancouver

H. N. Hurford, President, CUPW Langley Local*, BC

International Socialists National Steering Committee

Al Jensen, President, CAW Local 432*; President, Lower Mainland Council*, Vancouver

Barbara Loewi, Vancouver

Phil Lyons, Exec. Dir., National Academy of Older Canadians*

Winston McGregor, Financial Secretary, Communications Energy and Paperworkers Local 41-0*, Mississauga, ON

Michael B. McManus, President, International Union of Elevator

Constructors Local 82*, Vancouver

Partisan Defense Committee

R. Marie Pawelchak, Rec. Sec., CUPE Local 606*, Nanaimo, BC

Keith A. Phelps, Bus. Rep. and Rec. Sec., United Catering, Restaurant, Bar and Hotel Workers Local 1064 (RWDSU)*, Livonia, MI

Brent Rogers, Bus. Rep., United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 1237*, Dawson Creek, BC

Ron Schroeder, Counselor, TWU Local 38*, Vancouver

Lynn Sheard, Human Rights Officer, CAW Local 3020*, Burnaby, BC

Linda Shepherd, President, CUPW Kamloops Local*, BC

Socialist Challenge

Spartacus Youth Clubs, Toronto and Vancouver

Don Stang, President, TWU Local 1*, Vancouver

William J. Storrington, Local Chair., United Transportation Union*, Toronto

Ken Theobald, Development Education Centre*, Toronto

Hilda L. Thomas, Retired Professor of English, UBC*, Vancouver

Douglas J. Tingley, Plant Chairman, Exec. Board Member, IWA-Canada Local 1-3567*, New Westminster, BC

Trotskyist League/Ligue trotskyste

Kathryn Walker, Toronto Coalition Against Racism*

* Organization listed for identification purposes only.

We want to make it very clear that these endorsers

do not necessarily agree in any particular with the defense campaign materials published by the PDC.

Anti-Racist Protesters Confront KKK



Workers Vanguard

January 16: Black workers, students braved arctic weather to confront KKK in Springfield.

Springfield, Illinois

Aided, abetted and protected by a massive show of armed police force, the Ku Klux Klan staged racist provocations in eight U.S. 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 night-riders came out into the daylight, they were confronted by outraged anti-fascists.

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 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 the Zionist “Anti”-Defamation League.

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/U.S., which called the demonstration 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.

Faced with a multiracial crowd determined to stop the race haters, Secretary of State Ryan deployed his special police to

sneak the Klan 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 nearly -30 degrees, because otherwise “it could have been a larger crowd.” Indeed, much larger.

The call “All Out to Stop the KKK!” 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. 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.

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. Chicago Cook County Commissioner Danny Davis took a very forward position in the battle against the Klan and the forces of state repression. Springfield NAACP president Rudy Davenport also addressed the rally and brought people out with him in the frigid cold Sunday morning.

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, the United Electrical Workers and the United Rubber Workers.

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Springfield...

(continued from page 5)

In Springfield, representatives of Local 73 of the Service Employees International Union 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. More than 150 other endorsements poured in from across the U.S. and internationally. In Canada, the Metro Toronto Labour Council, Canadian Union of Postal Workers Toronto Local, and Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers Local 400 in Vancouver all endorsed the Springfield mobilization.

The organizing efforts against the Klan provocation had a sharp polarizing effect throughout the labor movement. 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. 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 ordering unionists, “in the interest of good public relations,” to “please stay away from the Capitol on Sunday, January 16.” Even earlier, Communist Party supporters began calling trade-union leaders in an attempt to get them to back off their endorsements.

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 fakery and came to the rally. 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. “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 ATU Local 308, which endorsed the demonstration and chartered a bus for ATU members to be there.

Various left groups—the International Socialist Organization (ISO—sister group of Canada’s International Socialists), 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 political views

and strategies of all participating groups would be represented.

But they refused. 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.

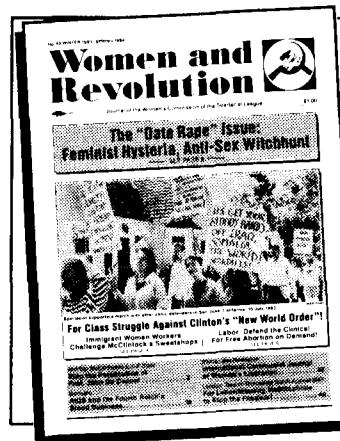
On the Capitol’s East steps, the 50-odd Klansmen gave Hitler salutes and played the “Ride of the Valkyries,” by the Nazi *Führer’s* favorite composer Wagner. Barely 45 minutes into their pathetic performance, the drowned-out KKKers crawled back into their holes with their cop escorts. The triumphant 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, forming up and marching 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.

Earlier that morning there was a particularly 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! 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.

The state’s concerted efforts to prevent anti-Klan protests are part and parcel of yuppie racist Clinton’s America. Today all that the Democrats have to offer blacks is more prisons and boot camps for youth. Last November, in a speech to a black congregation pushing the theme that “black people...murder other black people with abandon,” Clinton grotesquely invoked the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. 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 this year was “stop the violence” in the inner cities.

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 and Philadelphia initiated and built by the PDC and Spartacist League, gave a glimpse of the future workers party that will mobilize the working class and all the oppressed in struggle for a revolutionary workers government which will defeat the fascists once and for all by destroying the capitalist system which breeds them.

—For a fuller report get Workers Vanguard No. 592,
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Stephanie Penney

Stephanie Penney, a founding member of the Trotskyist League of Canada and a former member of the *Spartacist Canada* Editorial Board, died at her home near Toronto in late December. She was 44 years old.

Stephanie was born in St. John's on New Year's Day 1949. She later liked to tell the story of how she was the first female baby to be born in Newfoundland after it was coerced into the Canadian confederation. Thousands of Newfoundlanders protested the widely unpopular union with Canada that day by flying black flags. Stephanie would joke, with her typical bitter humor, that half of St. John's greeted her birth by waving flags of mourning.

She began to come to social and political consciousness during the late 1960s/early 70s, a period of great political volatility and radicalization among youth. Stephanie's formative political experiences were in the women's liberation movement. Repelled by the stultifying oppression and second-class status of women under capitalism, she helped to found Women's Place in Toronto, and was a speaker and organizer in the feminist movement for two years.

Increasingly dissatisfied with petty-bourgeois feminism, Stephanie sought out a working-class alternative. She was initially attracted to the Revolutionary Marxist Group, the then supporters of Ernest Mandel's United Secretariat, and joined their sympathizer "Red Circles" in the fall of 1973.

Around this time, comrades from the Buffalo branch of the Spartacist League/U.S. were undertaking systematic regional work in Toronto, gaining a hearing for our Trotskyist program among layers of radicalizing youth in and around the left-centrist RMG. Stephanie was among those who began a serious examination of the politics of the Spartacist tendency. She came to understand that the only road to women's liberation lay through building a Leninist vanguard party to lead the fight for socialist revolution.

Following intensive reading and discussion, the majority of Stephanie's Red Circle (four out of six) was won to the Spartacist program. She herself was one of the first half dozen recruits to the new Canadian Committee of the International Spartacist Tendency (CCIST), joining in summer 1974. Later that year, Stephanie moved to Vancouver to help establish a CCIST group there. She participated in the summer 1975 founding conference of the Trotskyist League of Canada, which fused the CCIST with the Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency, a left opposition in the RMG's Toronto and Winnipeg branches which had been expelled earlier that year.

In 1976, Stephanie moved to the United States, beginning

a four-year stint as a member of the Spartacist League/U.S., first in Chicago and then New York City. She trained professionally as a typesetter, becoming extremely fast and proficient. Her talents, both political and technical, were put to good use as production manager of *Women and Revolution*, the journal of the SL/U.S. Central Committee Commission for Work Among Women, during 1978-79. Stephanie was also extremely proud of her work on the voluntary crews which helped to construct the SL/U.S.'s offices in New York City in this period.

In the summer of 1980, Stephanie moved back to Toronto where she participated in the TLC's Fourth National Conference. She helped wage a political fight against a layer of party members who preferred ingrown cliquism and behind-the-scenes maneuvering to Leninist politics. (A couple of these types later founded the clot of embittered anti-Spartacists now calling themselves the "Bolshevik Tendency.") This fight was key in re-energizing and reorienting our organization for the Cold War 1980s (see "TL Conference: We Go Forward!" *SC* No. 44, September/October 1980).

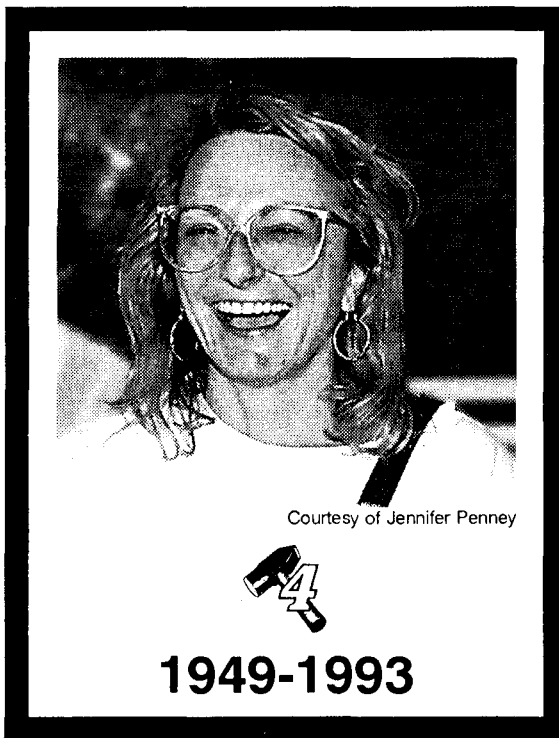
In recognition of her development as a Trotskyist cadre, Stephanie

was elected an alternate member of the TL Central Committee at this conference. For the next four years she also served as *Spartacist Canada* production manager, where she played a key role in training a new layer of party press workers. She was a member of *SC*'s Editorial Board throughout this period.

Stephanie left our organization in 1984. Yet while she dropped out of active political life, she continued to support the work of the TLC and the Partisan Defense Committee, and maintained close friendships with party comrades in Canada and internationally. When we learned of her death shortly after Christmas, we had to pass on the sad news to literally dozens of party comrades and sympathizers on three continents, all of whom had known, worked with and respected Stephanie very deeply.

On January 7, Stephanie's former comrades and friends in Toronto held a gathering in her memory. Speakers recalled her many and varied political contributions, as well as her warm compassion, her anger, her biting sense of humor, the unique and unmistakable way she used to laugh. Comrades and friends alike noted how Stephanie had derived deep personal satisfaction from her work as an active revolutionary.

We express our condolences to Stephanie's family, in particular her son Chris. She was a fighter—and will be missed. ■



Young Spartacus

Administration Backs JSF Apologists for Zionist Terror

No to University Censorship of York SYC!

We print below a leaflet distributed by the Spartacus Youth Club at York University in Toronto.

Our forthright defense of Palestinian national rights and opposition to Zionist state terror, in the face of the Israel-PLO deal for ghettoizing the Palestinian people, have come under fire at York University. Acting at the behest of the Jewish Students Federation (JSF), the York administration has written us a letter claiming the lead article of *Spartacist Canada* No. 95, "Zionist Killers Rampage Against Palestinians," "incites a negative campus climate for York University students." This letter, signed by the Coordinator of the Office of Student Affairs and dated February 7, informs us that the JSF has alleged our article "contains material that could incite hostility or hatred towards the Jewish community."

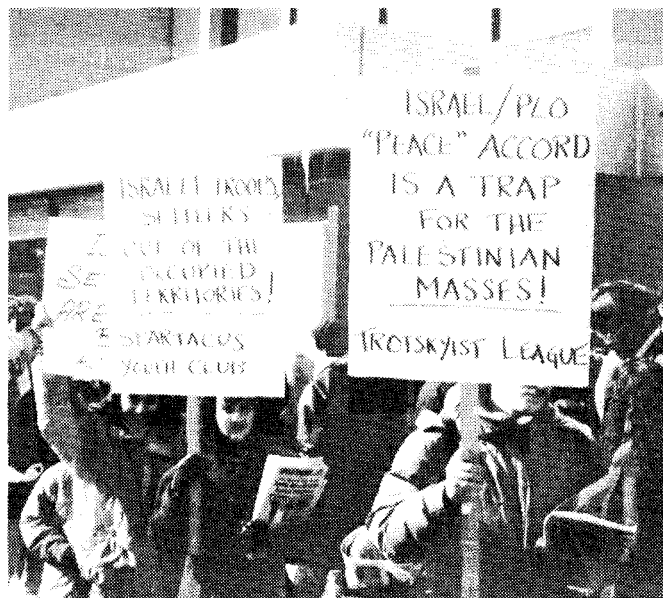
These accusations, which falsely equate our opposition to Zionist terror with racist anti-Semitism, are outrageous and libelous! The Administration's letter complains about our supposed "provocative and offensive language." It lectures that our use of "terms such as 'crazed Israeli fascists,' 'hard-core racist settlers,' and 'terrorist pogroms'" is "more within the genre of propagandist jargon than academic discourse." And it "concludes that while this material may not be full blown hate literature [!!!]," the SYC must "review" our "distribution of literature on campus." This is a clear threat to censor our publications and restrict or ban our activities at York.

What precisely do these would-be censors object to? Yes, we denounce "racist settlers" in the Occupied Territories as "crazed Israeli fascists." On February 25, one of them massacred over 40 Palestinian Muslim worshippers in Hebron, as Israeli soldiers stood by. Yes, we denounce as "terrorist pogroms" the Zionist mobs who rampage through Arab villages, smashing windows and beating shopkeepers. What kind of "academic" language would the York administration prefer that we use? Would they describe the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust against Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, socialists and others as "demographic restructuring by the German government"? The fact is, as noted Israeli civil libertarian Israel Shahak has said, that the Zionists in Israel are using "Nazi-like" methods against the Palestinian people.

The Administration's letter also claims our "reference to a 'Jericho bantustan' draws inappropriate parallels" between the rulers of Israel and South Africa. We didn't invent this particular analogy. The racist rulers of South Africa and the Zionists have a long and bloody history of collaboration, from trading nuclear secrets to Israeli troops learning apartheid-style "crowd control" in South Africa. Like the bantustan system in South Africa, the "Jericho plan" has nothing whatsoever to do with the right of self-determination. It is a continuation of the Israeli occupation and bloody state oppression of the Palestinian people.

The JSF's slanders about "hatred toward the Jewish commu-

nity" are particularly outrageous. The Spartacists have been in the front lines of mobilizing against fascist terror across North America. This past Martin Luther King Day (January 16), the Partisan Defense Committee, the legal and social defense organization associated with the Spartacist League/U.S., initiated and organized a labor/black mobilization in Springfield,



SC photo

Spartacus Youth Club, Trotskyist League join February 26 Toronto protest against Zionist massacre in Hebron.

Illinois which drowned out a gang of KKK Hitler-lovers. In Vancouver last May, the PDC and our comrades of the Trotskyist League initiated a militant protest against a meeting of the "Canadian League of Rights," an outfit which the Canadian Jewish Congress has termed "perhaps Canada's leading anti-semitic organization." Six anti-fascists currently face frame-up "assault" charges for their part in this demonstration.

As for the Zionist self-proclaimed spokesmen for all Jews, not only were they notable for their absence from these mobilizations, they have repeatedly sought to sabotage such anti-fascist efforts. In Springfield, for example, the Zionist ADL instructed outraged anti-fascists to stay home, while trying to raise money off the fascist KKK recruitment rally! The stated aim of their obscene "Project Lemonade" initiative was to raise more money, the longer the Klan provocation lasted. Here the ADL literally puts price tags on the corpses of fascist terror. They are far more interested in stopping blacks and reds than in stopping anti-Semitic fascists.

And what does the Zionists' track record against fascism in Canada look like? Last March, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre sponsored an "educational update" on neo-Nazi groups and

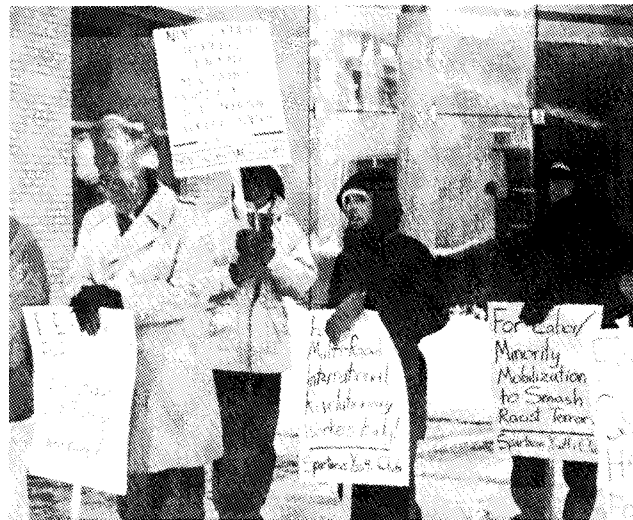
“Defend Refugees and Visa Students!”

On January 19, students and workers at York University demonstrated against the Ontario NDP government's plan to eliminate health care benefits for 167,000 refugees, visa students and foreign workers. Despite record-breaking -45 degree windchill temperatures, protesters fired the air with militant calls to: “Defend refugees! Defend visa students!”, for “Free, quality health care for all!” and “Full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers and their families!”

This united-front protest was initiated by the York Spartacus Youth Club. Speakers from the Canadian Union of Educational Workers Local 3 (representing teaching assistants), the African Students Association, the SYC and Trotskyist League took turns at the makeshift podium in front of the university's Vari Hall. Among other endorsers of the protest were the Sri Lankan Student Association, Black Women at York and the York Federation of Students.

The NDP's racist plan fits right in with the current campaign by the ruling class throughout North America and West Europe to scapegoat immigrants and refugees for capitalism's economic crisis. Not accidentally, it was launched only a few months after these “friends of labor” imposed their wage-slashing Social Contract on public sector workers.

While disgusted workers abandon the NDP in droves, much of Canada's so-called “left” continues to tail the party of Rae, Harcourt & Co. So it was no surprise when one “radical” NDP satellite, the York International Socialists, were tied in knots over our straightforward proposal for united-front action in defense of foreign-born workers and students. After days of dithering over whether to support the protest, the I.S. finally gave a paper endorsement. Then when the hour to demonstrate arrived, I.S. supporters were off in a classroom “studying socialism.” They did send two observers to monitor the event...from behind glass doors inside Vari Hall! Apparently the I.S. found it too cold to



SC photo

January 19: York University demo slams NDP health care cuts.

raise a voice in defense of refugees and visa students, or especially to criticize their friends in the NDP.

Despite the New Democrats' unremitting attacks on workers, women and minorities in every province where they have held office, pretend leftists like the I.S. continue to call for voting NDP, no matter what. Communists seek to destroy the NDP politically by winning over its working-class base to a revolutionary party and an anti-capitalist fight for all the oppressed. As an SYC spokesman told the protesters on January 19: “We fight to organize the people who tomorrow will be able to lead the working class to victory. Join us to overthrow the New World Disorder and make this world the beautiful place it should be!” ■

outrageously allowed notorious Toronto fascists Wolfgang Droege and Ernst Zundel into the hall, emboldening a fascist mob who took to the downtown streets outside. Then, on May 12, Karen Mock of B'nai B'rith shared the stage at a similar forum at Harbourfront where thugs from the Heritage Front and the paramilitary “Church of the Creator” strutted through the audience. Trotskyist League spokesmen were shoved out of this meeting by the cops when we shouted these fascists down; meanwhile we were denounced from the podium as “disruptive.”

The Zionists hate our guts because we have their number: they do *nothing* to defend Jews against fascist terror here and they cheer on state-supported terror against Palestinians in Israel. In fact, we communists are the living refutation of the self-serving lie that anti-Zionism equals anti-Semitism. We defend the Palestinian people against Israeli state terror *and* we oppose reactionary Arab-nationalist calls to “drive the Jews into the sea.” Our program for a binational workers state in the framework of a socialist federation of the Near East offers a future to both the Jewish and Palestinian people. In contrast, Zionism has never offered anything but a theocratic garrison state. Israel is a *deathtrap* for Jews.

The Administration's letter reflects the new “zero tolerance” guidelines, pushed by liberals and the provincial NDP, which supposedly target offensive language and bigotry on campus.

Women and black, Jewish, immigrant and other minority students do face real oppression, both on campus and off. But “politically correct” speech codes and so-called “hate laws” are invariably used to stifle the voice of campus radicals and other opponents of repressive capitalism. Lectures on racial tolerance do nothing to stop racism and fascism, which are inevitable products of a bankrupt economic system in decay. What is necessary to stop fascist and anti-Semitic terror is to mobilize the social power of the racially integrated labor movement at the head of all the fascists' intended victims, part of a revolutionary struggle to sweep away capitalist rule worldwide.

In response to the York University administration, we affirm that we will not be silenced. And as for the JSF right-wing junior witchhunters, we can only repeat:

“Only joint class struggle by all the workers of the region, standing at the head of the peasants and myriad oppressed nationalities, can lead to a progressive, just and equitable resolution to the conflicting national claims of the numerous peoples of the Near East, assuring the right of self-determination for both the Palestinian and Hebrew-speaking peoples. The key lies in forging an internationalist Trotskyist vanguard party, in which Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews will be comrades in struggle against the Zionist capitalist exploiters and oppressors.”

—Spartacist Canada No. 95, January/February 1994

York Spartacus Youth Club, 28 February 1994

Protest Attacks on Iranian, Iraqi Refugees!

On February 11 demonstrations were called in several North American and West European cities in defense of Iranian and Iraqi political refugees in Turkey. Hundreds of these refugees have been subjected to state persecution and deportation in the wake of "security" pacts signed by the Turkish and Iranian regimes together with the government of Iraqi Kurdistan. Under these agreements, the Turkish and Iranian governments have pledged to arrest and deport members of Iranian and Turkish opposition groups to each other's territory.

We print below the speech given by Angela Summers for the Trotskyist League at the demonstration in Vancouver, which was initiated by an Iranian refugee organization and sponsored by the Refugee Defense Committee.

* * *

I'm speaking for the Trotskyist League of Canada and International Communist League. We protest in the strongest terms the deportations of Iranian and Iraqi militants by the Turkish government, member of NATO and ally of U.S. and Canadian imperialism. We protest as well the deportations of Iranian, Kurdish, Arab and other leftist refugees by Canada and other western imperialist countries. Stop these deportations to death! Defend refugees! Full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers!

Ever since the bloody Islamic Republic of Iran was

founded 15 years ago, we Trotskyists have demonstrated in defense of the victims of the mullahs' bloody regime. At the time, we uniquely opposed the rise to power of Khomeini, saying "Down with the Shah, Down with the mullahs." Our perspective is working-class revolution, drawing in all the downtrodden throughout the region: the doubly-oppressed women, the peasantry, the Kurdish people who face mass murder for defending their national rights. Down with the bloody Islamic Republic—Workers to power!

After the destruction of the Soviet Union, the world's first workers state, the world has seen a dramatic new rise of imperialist terror and chauvinism against so-called foreigners. Only three years ago this month the U.S. and Canada waged mass murder against the people of Iraq. This crime must never be forgotten! Today the United Nations continues to starve Iraqi children through their blockade. Meanwhile terror against refugees and other minorities is on the rise everywhere.

The imperialists crow about the so-called "Death of Communism" and "Victory for democracy," but this is a lie! We of the ICL say the only solution is to mobilize the working people of the world—including here in North America—to rip power from their hands through socialist revolution. Stop the deportations to death! Defend Iranian, Iraqi and Kurdish militants! ■

Mexico...

(continued from page 3)

the lie to the carefully groomed image that the whole of the Mexican people welcomed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was rammed through while trying to silence and keep hidden all discussion among the population in the face of this imperialist looting. The stock market fell with the news of the uprising, but rebounded upon reports that the army had shot down groups of insurgents who were retreating from the areas they had occupied. The revolt reflects the rising desperation of the millions of dispossessed Mexicans facing the prospect of more misery and oppression that comes with the NAFTA agreement. While a tiny capitalist elite will be enriched, the treaty will deepen the misery of millions of peasants in danger of losing their small plots of land, of the workers thrown out of their jobs, of the millions who are condemned to destitution, forced to see their children suffer with hunger and drop out of school. To bring down NAFTA, it is urgent to mount an internationalist workers struggle, that will unite the workers of Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Despite all of the declarations that the 1968-style repression is "a thing of the past," in Chiapas the iron fist of the capitalist state is shown once again, whose function is to maintain the exploitation and oppression in the interests of the ruling class. This repression, which has filled streets and fields with the corpses of members of the EZLN (several found shot in the back of the neck, with their hands tied, according to the international press), has been supplemented by threats and racist statements about the "manipulation of the Indians" (as if they were non-thinking beings) by "strange hands," seeking to whip up a witchhunt atmosphere.

The law in Chiapas has for decades been the law of the

revolver and the whip, imposed by the *latifundistas*, the big cattle ranchers and loggers who have forced the Indians into a system of racist oppression that isn't very different from apartheid. The brutal repression of their communities, the murder of teacher activists by hired gunmen, the forced exodus of families accused by the *caciques* (rural bosses) of being evangelists, the persecution of immigrants and the recent series of death squad-style murders of homosexuals: this has been the everyday reality of life in this state.

To terrorize all who dare oppose their plans, the capitalist state sends its helicopters and planes to confront the old rifles and machetes of the insurgents, while seeking to prettify its international image with hollow words about seeking "dialogue." When the Chiapas Indians who decide to let their voice be heard in the face of the stonewalling and contempt of the various authorities are repressed with blood and fire, the parties of the bourgeois "opposition," including the PRD, warn against "excesses," but rush to condemn the victims of military repression, reprimanding them for not understanding the meaning of "democracy" and for "resorting to violence."

As a Marxist revolutionary organization, the GEM emphasizes to those who seek to fight against capitalism and imperialism, that it is the *power of the working class*, and not rural guerrilla warfare, which if organized behind the program of international socialist revolution can defeat NAFTA and mobilize the dispossessed peasants and all the oppressed against the misery and barbarity of the capitalist system. In the face of the repression in Chiapas, it is an urgent duty for the working class to defend the courageous Indian insurgents and all the victims of the bourgeois repression. The GEM, as a part of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist), denounces this massacre and fights to build the Leninist vanguard party so desperately needed by the toilers of this land. ■

Somalia Murder Mission...

(continued from page 1)

campaign against Somali refugees in Canada, who are scapegoated as "welfare cheats" and subjected to apartheid-style racist harassment in the Toronto suburbs, mirrors the bloody role of Canadian imperialist troops in the Horn of Africa.

Ottawa is scrambling to restore the carefully groomed nice-guy image of its "peacekeepers," putting out the word that this was all the work of one Nazi-infested rogue regiment (and under then Tory defense minister Kim Campbell to boot). But the idea, pushed by the NDP and sundry pacifists, that Canadian imperialist "peacekeeping" is counterposed to the warmongers of Washington is a self-serving myth. Canada's "neutral" facade has been extremely useful to U.S. imperialism, often providing a cover for anti-Communist adventures and neo-colonial plunder.

Imperialist Butchers, Hands Off the World!

In the early 1950s, more than 20,000 Canadian troops served in the U.S./UN war against North Korea and China, helping to slaughter more than three million Korean people. A decade later, Canadian "UN peacekeepers" intervened in the Congo to help secure mineral-rich Katanga province for imperialist exploitation. The radical-nationalist government of Patrice Lumumba was overthrown and replaced with a pliant puppet regime. And in 1991, Canada joined the U.S./UN Gulf War against Iraq, eagerly participating in the mass slaughter of 150,000 people.

Today nearly a quarter of all Canadian ground forces are stationed in the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The recent U.S. threat of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs had Chrétien muttering for a while, worried that Canadian troops might get caught in the line of fire. But Washington's junior partners soon snapped to attention and endorsed the threatened strikes.

Revolutionaries take no side in the squalid intercommunal slaughter carried out by competing nationalist factions in the

Balkans. But in the face of direct imperialist military intervention, it would be the duty of the international working class to stand militarily with the Serbs. Down with the starvation blockade against Serbia! U.S., Canada, NATO, out of the Balkans now!

Canadian imperialism is also playing a dirty role alongside the U.S. in the Caribbean. Under a UN plan supposedly aimed at restoring deposed Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Canadian soldiers and RCMP officers were among those dispatched to "retrain" the blood-soaked Haitian police and military last October. But when these imperialist "educators"



SC photo

June 1993: Toronto protest against U.S./UN attack on Mogadishu. U.S./UN troops out of Somalia!

were greeted by a show of force by anti-Aristide paramilitaries, Washington and Ottawa opted to starve the Haitian populace with a naval blockade. Haiti is already the poorest country in the Western hemisphere; now under the blockade, malnutrition and infant mortality are sharply on the rise. And the imperialist naval build-up in the Caribbean also poses a deadly menace to the embattled Cuban workers state. Down with the blockade of Haiti! Defend Cuba! Imperialist gunboats out of the Caribbean!

The post-Cold War world is dangerous and very unstable. The existence of the Soviet Union and presence of Soviet military strength on the world stage served as a brake on imperialist designs in much of the Third World. Now capitalist counterrevolution in the USSR and East Europe has unleashed a "New World Disorder" of renewed neo-colonialism, nationalist wars and heightened interimperialist conflict.

The bloody assault on working people and the poor abroad is reflected at home in attacks on workers' rights, jobs and social conditions. The struggle against imperialist carnage is inextricably tied to working-class struggle against the capitalist lords of Bay Street and Wall Street and their kept politicians in Ottawa and Washington. The only road to peace lies through forging a genuinely communist vanguard party to lead the struggle for world socialist revolution.

In the interim, it would be a measure of elementary justice if the Canadian Airborne killers of Shidane Arone were handed over to his family for trial and execution of sentence. From Somalia to Sarajevo to the Caribbean: Imperialist butchers, hands off the world! ■

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Cigarettes...

(continued from page 2)

Indeed, the Canadian rulers have especially lined up in their sights anyone who isn't white and Protestant. The 21 February *Maclean's* rants that "gun-toting Mohawks" are patrolling the cigarette warehouses in New York state, while "a multi-cultural mix of criminal elements" picks up the distribution of illegal cigarettes; "the black market in Ontario is dominated by Vietnamese and Chinese gangs, as well as bikers. In Quebec, it is in the hands of a mixed and shifting bag of criminal organizations, including the Mafia, Irish-dominated groups and French-speaking Québécois gangs."

But white Protestants had better look out too. In the name of "fighting smuggling" the RCMP has now deployed "Blue Thunder" infra-red-equipped helicopters to patrol the border, while its agents spy on shoppers buying booze in the U.S. Special police units have been detailed to go after smokers, especially youth. The B.C. NDP government wants to set up a police *cordon sanitaire* at the Manitoba-Ontario border to "defend the West from cheap cigarettes" (*Vancouver Sun*, 22 February). The Ontario NDP government has introduced legislation allowing

the provincial cops to stop and search any vehicles they want. And Big Brother Bob Rae wants to make you carry an I.D. card that allows computer access to the most intimate details of your life.

Tax revenues aside, much of this government intrusion and repression is carried out under the banner of "public health." This would be amusing if it weren't so deadly serious. Both the feds and the provinces have been slashing health care wholesale in the name of "deficit reduction," forcing cancer and heart patients to go to the U.S. for lifesaving treatment. The Ontario NDP is about to cut *all* health care for refugees and foreign workers. And while yuppies from coast to coast whine about second-hand smoke, tuberculosis—a preventable and easily curable disease of poverty—ravages Native communities.

We deeply resent "sin taxes," designed to make working people pay disproportionately for the irrationalities of capitalist rule. In a rational, socialist society the billions this ruling class spends to go after smokers and Native people would be used to help find cures for cancer and other diseases, making those pleasures people indulge in somewhat more risk-free. In the meantime, we demand: Free quality health care for all! Down with "sin taxes"! Government: Butt out! ■

Censorship...

(continued from page 16)

works themselves would be "tried"...and destroyed if convicted.

The state has no business interfering in what we see, read, write or say! And no business regulating who or how we screw! Down with censorship—Government out of the bedroom!

"Anti-Porn" Sex Witchhunt: Bourgeois Feminists Cock the Gun

The government's anti-sex witchhunt is being carried out under the emotionally charged slogans of stopping violence against women and protecting children from sexual abuse. Child abuse and rape are terrible crimes. But the capitalist state's current frenzy is not about protecting women or youth.

Quite the opposite. The crusade against "pornography" seeks to shore up the reactionary institution of the family. The family, with the ownership and inheritance of private property at its heart, is the main source of the very real oppression of women and children. The repeated panics over "child abuse" at youth homes and day cares aim to drive women back to hearth and home "where they belong," there to protect their children from lurking "molesters." Along with organized religion, the family is a key enforcer of the bourgeois "morality" which chains the population to the oppressive capitalist system. The bourgeoisie views gay sex—any sex outside of marriage—as a potential menace to their social order.

It is therefore particularly grotesque that the laws under which the anti-woman, anti-gay sex witchhunt is being carried out were demanded by feminists and social democrats who supposedly uphold women's rights.

The Supreme Court's 1992 *Butler* decision, which authorizes the wholesale censorship of pornography as "violence against women," was decisively influenced by a brief presented by the feminist Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). Aided and inspired by U.S. anti-porn queen Catharine MacKinnon, who claims that *looking at* pornography is tantamount to rape, LEAF's feminist censors claimed the oppression of women



SC photo

TL joins protest against cop raid on Mercer Union Gallery.

would be alleviated by sex cops confiscating videotapes and locking up porn stars. "Prohibiting pornography," they argued, "promotes equality." LEAF's Kathleen Mahoney makes no bones about the ruling's repressive, anti-democratic essence, endorsing "some sort of cutting back of individual rights as we've always known them" (*New York Times*, 13 December 1993). Ironically, but not accidentally, the first victim of LEAF's "triumph" was the erotic lesbian magazine, *Bad Attitude*.

Hard on the heels of the *Butler* decision came the 1993 Child Pornography and Corrupting Morals amendment to the Criminal Code, Bill C-128. This last gasp of the Mulroney Tories was hailed by an unholy alliance reaching from the religious right to prominent feminists and NDP social democrats. Bill C-128 bans the sexual depiction of anyone under 18, or anyone appearing to be under 18. Possession or production of such material is now a criminal offense.

Even *advocating* the depiction—much less the act—of "minors" having sex can now land you in jail. Supporters of the



Art Gallery of Ontario

Noted 19th-century Canadian artist Paul Peel used child models. Is his "Little Shepherdess" "child pornography"?

North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), who have already suffered brutal persecution for their advocacy of the right of consenting men and youths to have sex, are thus declared outlaws to whom anything can be done. We defend NAMBLA and state simply that the guiding principle in sexual relations should be that of effective consent—not the age, sex, relationship or number of people involved.

In many cases it is now a crime to describe things which it is perfectly legal to do. Noted civil liberties lawyer Clayton Ruby put his finger on the sinister irrationality of the new law (*Toronto Star*, 20 September 1993):

"The law creates a duty to make 'all' reasonable inquiries to ascertain that the subject is 18 or over and is not made to appear younger.... What exactly does an 18 year old look like? What's the difference between a 17 and an 18-year-old? One might think that the first reasonable inquiry would be to examine the material yourself. But examining it is a crime."

Lawyer Daniel Lyon asked: "What has happened to the fundamental principle of criminal law, that people are entitled to know in advance whether their behaviour could subject them to prosecution?" (*Globe and Mail*, 22 June 1993). But that's the point: you aren't supposed to know in advance. This Orwellian law is deliberately designed to allow the cops to ensnare *anyone* with the humiliating and fearful accusation of "child pornography." They could get you for reading James Clavell's bestselling *Shogun* or the poems of Catullus, for renting a video of *Summer of '42*, or for acting in *Romeo and Juliet*. Even viewing the famous child nudes of Paul Peel, the centerpiece of the nineteenth century Canadian collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario, could get you busted. And it's up to you to demonstrate that the "kiddie porn" in question has "artistic merit."

The state's censorship crusade has nothing to do with "pro-

tecting women and children" and everything to do with enforcing social conformity through fear of the state itself. The state persecution of Eli Langer—a self-taught artist and son of prominent University of Toronto academics—makes the real purpose of the anti-sex witchhunt crystal clear: anyone, anytime, anywhere—be afraid.

The English poet and Puritan bourgeois revolutionary John Milton skewered the real purpose of the "licensors" in *Areopagitica*, his eloquent and enduring 1664 denunciation of censorship. Milton's polemic was written in the middle of the English Civil War. The bourgeois-revolutionary parliament, contending for mastery against the monarchy, sought to stifle the press in the name of "public morality." With trenchant irony, Milton mocked: "How goodly, and how to be wished, were such an obedient unanimity as this, what a fine conformity would it starch us all into! Doubtless a staunch and solid piece of framework, as any January could freeze together." The censors' aim, as Milton wrote, is "to bring a famine upon our minds again, when we shall know nothing but what is measured to us by their bushel."

The terrifying and arbitrary sexual McCarthyism that now pervades this society is meant as a warning to all who would oppose the repressive bourgeois order. The oppression of women and violence against children will continue as long as capitalism is allowed to exist. Thus, demanding of the capitalist state that it "oppose" the violent abuse of women and children—even as it forces millions of women and children to suffer in poverty—is worse than a futile illusion. The state is not neutral. It exists only to defend the rights of the ruling class against the working class, against the rights of capitalism's many victims.

Today, capitalism in decline must claw back the bourgeois political rights for which Milton and others struggled centuries ago. The Russian socialist revolution of 1917 first opened the door to *social* equality. Having smashed the capitalist state and replaced it with the rule of the working class, Lenin and Trotsky's Bolsheviks fought to bring women, national minorities, all the oppressed, fully into social life. The revolutionary Soviet government established abortion rights, day care, easy divorce, obliterated anti-gay laws, extended full citizenship rights to foreign-born workers, freed artistic and literary expression.

Those who seek genuine human freedom must oppose every effort of the degenerate capitalist state to arrogate further powers to itself. The oppression this society engenders cannot be addressed until the whole capitalist order, and the state which defends it, is swept away by the working class fighting for power. Smash Bill C-128! Down with the anti-sex witchhunt! ■

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State Railroads CASAW Militants

Free Jailed Yellowknife Strikers!

For 18 bitter months they squared off in the remote northern gold mining town of 15,000. On one side, 240 members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4. On the other, Royal Oak Mining's scabs, their Pinkerton thugs and attack dogs, plus a contingent of the federal government's armed professional strikebreakers, the RCMP.

Roger Warren, Tim Bettger and Al Shearing stood up and defended their union—they knew which side they were on. Now all three are in court facing deadly serious charges—in Warren's case, nine counts of murder. The bosses' "justice" system threatens to put them away for many, many years. The entire labor movement must rally to the defense of these union brothers!

Three weeks into the strike which began in May 1992, the RCMP fired volleys of tear gas into a 200-strong picket line and then waded in clubbing strikers. Sixteen strikers were framed up in this cop riot, Roger Warren among them. When an Edmonton judge threw out the case against seven due to lack of evidence, the Deputy Federal Attorney General intervened with an obscure "direct indictment" to force a trial of 14 of those charged. On 18 February a jury declared all of them "not guilty." But they had already been gassed, beaten and forced to pay huge legal bills—one way or another, the Mounties always get their man.

Following the 18 September 1992 underground explosion in which nine scabs expired, the RCMP immediately declared the blast to have been homicide, seeking to hang the union. CASAW officials pointed to Royal Oak's abysmal safety record and reports of men and high explosives being illegally transported together in man-cars.

The feds launched a massive campaign to convict a CASAW striker. Twenty-two cops worked full time on the case for over a year, and sources suggest an additional 30 to 40 undercover agents did as well. Millions were spent as dozens of strikers had their phones tapped and were subjected to intimidating hours-long interrogations wired to lie detectors.

On October 16 last year, Roger Warren was arrested and charged with nine counts of murder. Tim Bettger and Al Shearing were arrested the following day on charges including setting an explosive device and "uttering threats to cause death." All have been imprisoned ever since. In February heavily armed cops sealed off the room where Warren's preliminary hearing was held, subjecting union members to searches. The atmosphere was so heavy with anti-unionism that one spectator felt free to physically attack a CASAW past president. All of labor must demand: Drop the charges against CASAW strikers! Free Roger Warren, Tim Bettger and Al Shearing! Although the strike ended on December 1, 49 men remain fired for picket line activity. Reinstate them now with full back pay!

Beyond lip-service and pocket change, the Yellowknife strikers were left to go it alone by the "leadership" of the Canadian labor movement. The labor tops could easily have organized to shut down Royal Oak's other mines and gone after the scab-hiring outfits. But their do-nothing ultra-legalism has isolated and defeated far more strikes than the police ever have with billy clubs. Instead of waging the kind of class struggle needed to win, the pro-capitalist, NDP-loyal bureaucrats meekly plead with the bosses' government to pass "anti-scab" legislation. What is needed is a genuine workers party, committed to winning labor's battles and to fighting for a workers government.

By going after Warren, Bettger and Shearing with a vengeance, the bosses want to intimidate and threaten any and all union militants. An injury to one is an injury to all! Financial contributions are desperately needed to mount a legal defense for the CASAW strikers. **Contributions to Roger Warren's defense should be made payable/sent to: The Warren Fund, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife NWT, X1A 2P2. Donations for the defense of Tim Bettger and Al Shearing should be made out to the Canadian Auto Workers, earmarked "For the defense of Bettger and Shearing," and sent to: Canadian Auto Workers, c/o Jess Succamore, 707—12th St., New Westminster BC, V3M 4J7. ■**

Vancouver Six...

(continued from page 4)

the frame-up of the Vancouver Six is a matter of urgency for the labor movement, for oppressed minorities and all intended victims of fascist terror. The powerful, integrated unions of the B.C. Lower Mainland have the power to sweep the fascists from the streets whenever they raise their heads.

An impressive number of trade unionists—both union locals and individuals—as well as community groups have already rallied to the defense campaign (see endorsers list, page 4). Organizations and individuals have sent protest letters to NDP attorney general Colin Gabelmann. Generous donations have come in from working people who know that against the enormous resources of the capitalist state, working-class militants have only the support of their class brothers and sisters. But much more is needed.

Mark May 30 on your calendar—that's when the trial is scheduled to begin. Start organizing now—mobilize to pack the courtroom and send a message to the powers-that-be: labor and minorities won't tolerate seeing their own railroaded by the bosses' racist courts and cops. Contact the PDC to get leaflets and other campaign materials. In Vancouver call (604) 687-0353, in Toronto (416) 593-4138. Raise motions of solidarity in your union local, community or student group or other organization demanding "Drop the Charges."

Send protest statements to Attorney General Colin Gabelmann, Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC, V8V 1X4, fax number (604) 387-6411. Send copies to the PDC together with urgently needed financial donations—for legal fees, publicity, phone bills and much more—payable to the Partisan Defense Committee, earmarked "Anti-Fascist Defense," at Box 4932, Main P.O., Vancouver BC, V6B 4A6, or Box 314, Station B, Toronto ON, M5T 2W1. ■

ILWU Tops Bow to Government Strikebreaking

VANCOUVER—For 13 days, 3,500 longshoremen demonstrated labor's power with a province-wide strike that shut down ports all along the British Columbia coast and on Vancouver Island. Grain, lumber, pulp, potash, sulphur and petrochemicals piled up as International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) members faced off against the B.C. Maritime Employers Association's (BCMEA) demands for concessions.



SC photo

Longshoremen shut down B.C. coast in January.

But on February 8, the bosses' government weighed in. A strikebreaking back-to-work law was unanimously rushed through federal Parliament—including with the support of the social-democratic New Democratic Party—threatening the union with \$100,000-a-day fines and ordering compulsory arbitration.

The strike began on January 27 when Local 508 members in the Vancouver Island port of Chemainus learned the BCMEA was refusing to budge in negotiations, which had dragged on since before the last contract expired over a year ago. Some guys lost their temper and refused to work, one unionist told SC. That night the strike spread to other Vancouver Island ports and to Prince Rupert in the north. When the BCMEA announced a lockout, the key ILWU Local 500 shut down Vancouver, Canada's biggest port and the largest bulk port in North America, trapping ships at the berths, in the harbor and anchored close by.

Behind the strike was the BCMEA's drive to attack working conditions, including cutting the day shift lunch hour in half (the only break most get) while adding a half-hour to the afternoon shift. The BCMEA's demand for shift extensions and other concessions is part of a concerted campaign they have been waging against the ILWU for years.

Despite a vote against the lunch hour cut at a November Local 500 meeting, the ILWU leadership *agreed* to the give-backs, seeking to trade them for a few more cents an hour. Canadian-area ILWU president Gordie Westrand told the press that "longshoremen are prepared to make changes in work hours and other working conditions that represent the most

significant opening of the contract since he joined the union 22 years ago," according to the *Vancouver Sun* (1 February).

From the start, the bureaucrats tried to scuttle the strike. Westrand told the BCMEA that "I was prepared to continue working on all other port areas and we'd try to get Chemainus back on line." Then Westrand begged to be allowed to have the ILWU load grain. Finally when the strikebreaking orders came down, the union tops pulled the pickets and sent ILWUers back to work.

Any struggle by the longshoremen, like all major struggles between the workers and the bosses, immediately poses a *political* fight. On one side are the capitalists and their state, on the other the organized strength of the working class. These struggles can't be won with a "leadership" that is bound hand and foot to the bosses and their agents. And that is exactly the role of the NDP, which helped speed the Liberals' strikebreaking law through Parliament. The union bureaucrats and pseudo-socialists tout the NDP as "labor's political arm"—but what kind of arm is this that salutes the bosses and punches the workers in the face? From jailing postal strike leaders in Ontario to breaking teachers strikes in B.C., NDP provincial governments rule on behalf of the capitalists.

Longshoremen have the power to forge a powerful coalition of B.C. waterfront and transportation unions in a fight to smash the attacks of grain elevator operators and railroad bosses. From Los Angeles to Vancouver, ILWU members have fought sharp battles to defend their historic gains. Yet each time the union leadership has refused to launch powerful *coastwise strike action* that could quickly bring the bosses to their knees. On both sides of the border there is a sordid history of nationalist backstabbing, including in 1971-72 when Canadian ILWU members were ordered to unload cargo diverted from struck U.S. ports. This time over 8,000 containers were diverted to U.S. ports, but ILWU International president Dave Arian refused to "hot-cargo" the scab containers.

The ILWU needs a fighting *internationalist* leadership to unite transportation and waterfront workers on both sides of the border and to join in militant common struggle with Mexican workers. This must be the response to the capitalists' "free trade" rape of Mexico and their anti-labor offensive in Canada and the U.S. No to strikebreaking NDP social democrats and the labor traitors' support to the capitalist Democratic Party in the U.S.! We need to build class-struggle workers parties fighting for workers rule.

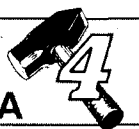
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Anti-Sex Witchhunt Targets Women, Gays, Youth

Down With Censorship!

There's a new Inquisition underway in this country. The Canadian capitalist state has armed its censors and its cops with broad new powers to regulate the most personal aspects of our daily lives: what we will be permitted to see, read and say, what we will be permitted to know.

The purpose of this onslaught is to create a society that is ignorant, docile and fearful. As anti-censorship activist Bruce Walsh told the *Globe and Mail* (12 February), "the state fears a loss of control over the Canadian people." Especially since the collapse of the Soviet Union removed a key roadblock to their wholesale domination, the imperialists have launched broad attacks on all the hard-won gains of working people and the oppressed—union rights, medicare, unemployment insurance, welfare, asylum for refugees. The capitalist ruling class now sees no reason it should tolerate the liberties of a restive population ground down under the worst depression since the Thirties.

Big Brother's net is wide. At the border, Customs is impounding everything from copies of *Hustler* bound for your corner store to the poems of Rimbaud and the popular novels of Marguerite Duras on their way to university literature departments. A training video about male masturbation for Manitoba medical students has been seized. Even the Anglican Book Centre has been a target of Canada Customs' censorious wrath.

In the pure tradition of anti-Communist McCarthyism, *you* are to be drafted as agent for the state's chilling crackdown on fundamental democratic freedoms. In Vancouver, library workers were ordered under protest to take scissors to American newspapers like the *Washington Post* and scan computer databases to hunt down and suppress articles which might violate an Ontario judge's gag order in the manslaughter trial of Karla Homolka.

From destroying books at the border, the state increasingly has turned its hand to destroying people's lives through naked terror. Last November, London, Ontario police launched an anti-gay manhunt which has so far snared more than 20 men and youths. Their crime: talking about sex, having it, and recording the proceedings on video for their private enjoyment. Vicious police persecution and public humiliation has driven one of these young men to attempt suicide twice.

In fact, sex is right in the crosshairs of this puritanical witchhunt—especially gay sex, youthful sex, any sex that doesn't fit the bourgeois ideal of "one man on one woman for life." The government's morality police have increased their "vigilance"

for anything that might turn you on, revolt you, or both. In Toronto, a special police detachment is detailed to root out "smut." Official harassment of gay and lesbian booksellers and publishers is escalating beyond the bounds of even nominal legal restraint. The Little Sisters bookstore in Vancouver has been the target of relentless seizures of imported books and magazines for years; then at Christmas, Customs was caught



Laurence Acland

Toronto artist Eli Langer, victim of government anti-"porn" crusade. The state intends to destroy his works of imagination.

tampering with a *domestic* shipment to the store.

In January, Nina Hartley, a popular American porn star and outspoken champion of sexual freedom, was nabbed by Immigration in B.C. and ordered deported, deemed too hot for Canadian audiences. (She slipped into Canada anyway and did her show in New Westminster as promised.) In Toronto artist Eli Langer and the respected Mercer Union gallery were dragged into the courts under truly obscene "obscenity" charges. Langer and an officer of the gallery, Sharon Brooks, faced ten years in prison for producing, possessing and displaying "child pornography." The persecution of Eli Langer, and the seizure of his works of imagination depicting children engaged in sex acts with one another and with adults, is an outrage! On February 24, the Crown Prosecutor's office dropped the charges against Langer and Brooks, while vowing that the "offending"

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