

TRUTH

ORGAN OF TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATION USA SECTION (SYMPATHIZING) FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

The Iranian Revolution Is Our Revolution — DEFEND IT!

American workers and youth must condemn U.S. imperialism's latest act of desperation against the revolution in Iran.

Carter's economic blockade, his plans to cut off food and medicine, along with the witch-hunt against Iranians in the U.S. and his military threats, are reprehensible acts.

If Carter hadn't already made it, he certainly now joins the ranks of international war criminals.

The most important thing to understand about these latest acts are that they are acts of desperation. Since the overthrow of "our friend," the Shah, in early 1979, U.S. imperialism has been incapable of destroying or isolating the Iranian revolution, a revolution which shattered U.S. imperialism's grip on the Middle East.

Internationally the Iranian revolution is a symbol of the struggle against U.S. imperialism, a signal to millions throughout the world that now is the time to overthrow the puppets of U.S. imperialism-- the Somozas, the junta in El Salvador, the reactionary clique in Liberia.

And at home, the Carter government has been unable to find the slightest support in the working class for his campaign to isolate and destroy the Iranian revolution. 30,000 youth recently demonstrated in Washington, D.C. against Carter's war plans. This latest act is a futile attempt to find this support.

U.S. workers must continue to defend Iran because it concerns the defense of a revolution. It was a revolution, led by

millions of workers and youth which overthrew the Shah and it is this revolution which has stood firm against both Carter and the attempts of the Khomeini regime to stop it. A revolution is always worth defending.

U.S. workers must also defend Iran because U.S. imperialism is the policeman of the world. This defense is unconditional. It is always worth defending the oppressed against the police.

Finally, we must defend Iran because a national can't be free as long as it oppresses others.

On April 16 Wayne County (Michigan) Circuit Court Judge Robert J. Columbo issued an order demanding that striking teachers go back to work. But he did more than this. He went on to attack the striking teachers as "plundering huns," "vultures," "anarchists" and advised the school board to "weed them (the strikers) out of your school systems like you would weed crab grass out of your lawn."

Examples like this can be repeated hundreds of times throughout the country. Behind the campaign against Iran is U.S. imperialism's campaign to further enslave the American working class, which is the FIRST and FOREMOST aim of the U.S. ruling class.

The "rabble" and "screaming mobs" in Tehran need the support of the "plundering huns" and "anarchists" in Detroit.

The Iranian revolution is our revolution--defend it.
DOWN WITH CARTER'S BLOCKADE!
April 17, 1980
TRUTH



INSIDE

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT OF FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Thesis Preparing the Conference
for the Construction
of the Fourth International
in the Two Americas

TRUTH



A Workers Paper to Fight for A Workers Candidate!

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It is only April and already workers and youth have had enough of the 1980 Presidential election campaign. Almost every poll and survey taken shows the universal disgust and distrust with the Presidential candidates.

Workers and youth sense the bankruptcy of a system which is reduced to presenting its candidates for the highest office in the land on the basis of media hype. Having no program to stand on, or to be more exact, any program that they will dare reveal to the American public, they reduce their campaign to gimmicks and personalities, hiding what is really at stake.

Thus Carter is running for President again by not running, by hiding in the White House and pretending that he has "more important things to do." While in fact, for almost a year he has done NOTHING BUT try to get re-elected.

Reagan is running as "Mr. Hollywood," hoping that he can act his way into the White House, Bush as "Mr. CIA," hoping he can scare his way in and "Mr. Camelot" has become the lost cause of 1980.

The so-called "socialists" and "communists" are a pitiful part of this farce. Along with the ex-actors, ex-spies and ex-cowards they chime in by saying: "Put a steelworker in the White House," as if there is any more reason for a worker or youth to trust these ex-"anti-war activists," "student activists," "gay activists," who have now suddenly become "steelworkers" and "autoworkers" thanks to their friends in the trade union bureaucracy.

The bankruptcy of this election campaign expresses the real

problem -- the deep crisis of U.S. imperialism and the Democratic Party and the deep divisions inside the ranks of the ruling class itself. This election campaign shows that they cannot hide this crisis from the American working class. But at the same time, the massive disgust of the workers and youth expresses the fact that the working class has not yet found a positive alternative to this crisis.

It is in this framework that it is perfectly natural for any worker and youth to ask: What is this Workers Candidate that the Trotskyist Organization/USA is fighting for?

Is it just one more fraud in this bankrupt election campaign? Are we just chiming in with the "steelworkers" of the SWP -- is this just another version of the same old "put a worker in the White House" line?

When most workers and youth don't want ANYONE in the White House!

No. Our campaign for a Workers Candidate isn't another fraud. It has nothing to do with bankrupt electoralism and the parliamentary fantasies of the Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists.

But we don't ask you to just take our word for it. For the fight for a Workers Candidate to become a real fight it must be your fight. And the only way for this to happen is for you to draw your own conclusions.

Is it possible to unmask this fraud? What are the real possibilities for the U.S. working class in the present situation?

Are you going to accept the lie churned out in the press and media that this is ALL THERE IS, that the present situation is the only possibility?

If you believe that it isn't, that the present international situation which is characterized by a deep and irreversible crisis of U.S. imperialism, a deep and permanent crisis of the Democratic Party, presents a HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY for the American working class, you can be convinced of the need for a WORKERS CANDIDATE to fight for a Workers Party in these elections.

Not a party for the bureaucrats of parliamentary dreamers. But a party for the youth, for the most militant fighting workers who are most disgusted with this system and are ready to find a revolutionary solution.

Not for those who want to vote for "a worker" in November, but for those who want to fight for the revolution, in November and today. For those who want to turn the situation around.

It doesn't require taking our word for it. It simply requires a struggle.

This struggle requires a weapon. This weapon is our press. There can be no fight for the revolution in the Presidential elections, no fight to unmask and shatter this farce without a revolutionary paper.

TRUTH is this weapon. TRUTH is the only way to organize a vanguard of the working class ready to rally the working class for the revolution in these elections against U.S. imperialism.

Read and distribute TRUTH. Support it financially. Organize the fight for the revolution against these elections by building the WORKERS PRESS.
April 13, 1980
TRUTH

TRUTH IS YOUR WEAPON!



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"A nation can't be free as long as it oppresses another."

Independence for Puerto Rico!

By JON COHEN

The recent arrests of 11 Puerto Rican militants, along with the social turmoil in Puerto Rico itself, expressed by the April 12 takeover of an electric power station, places the question of the independence of Puerto Rico as an immediate task of the American working class.

The fight to free Puerto Rico from the grip of U.S. imperialism is part of the battle to build a Workers Party in the United States. Marx wrote a long time ago that "a nation cannot be free as long as it oppresses another."

No American worker can be free as long as the people of Puerto Rico are not.

Puerto Rico is a colony of U.S. imperialism. It has been under colonial domination for almost 500 years. For 400 years, until 1898, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony, used primarily as a military base and ruled by a brutal military-church dictatorship.

On July 25, 1898, Puerto Rico was occupied by the U.S. army during the Spanish-American War. It has been a colony of U.S. imperialism since then.

On July 25, 1952 -- the 54th anniversary of the U.S. invasion -- the "Commonwealth" of Puerto Rico was proclaimed by the U.S. Congress after a "plebiscite" organized by U.S. imperialism under conditions of martial law and the brutal suppression of a revolt led by the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party.

The "Commonwealth" status is a complete fraud, a cover for colonial domination. Puerto Rico is a bastion of imperialist exploitation. 78% of all factories are directly owned by U.S. corporations. On the average, Puerto Rican workers are paid 1/3 of U.S. wages -- Puerto Rico is subject to all laws of the United States except certain "unnecessary" ones -- like the minimum wage law.

All of this has disastrous consequences for the Puerto Rican people. The unemployment rate is over 40%. Over 70% of the population receives food stamps. Puerto Rico is a tropical country with plenty of food but is forced by U.S. imperialism to IMPORT most of its goods at inflated prices. And thousands of Puerto Ricans are forced to immigrate to the U.S. where they are a source of cheap, expendable labor.

Under the guise of "local self-government" Puerto Ricans are subject to the laws of the U.S. -- pay taxes, serve in the military, etc., with NO REPRESENTATION. They have no right to vote for U.S. President, Senate

or Congress; they are only entitled to an "observer" in Congress.

Colonialism, pure and simple.

Puerto Rico should be a reminder to U.S. workers as to what this "democracy" is based on -- colonial exploitation and oppression of millions throughout the world, including in our own "backyard."

It is also not coincidental that some of the most brutal repression of this imperialist state has been unleashed against Puerto Rican militants who have fought for the independence of their nation. Until they were released this year, the longest-held political prisoners in the Americas were Puerto Rican nationalists who spent over 25 years in federal prison.

The question of Puerto Rico has a significance for the class struggle inside the U.S. as well. Puerto Rico is a weak link in U.S. imperialism's domination of Latin America. Through massive immigration the class struggle in Puerto Rico is tied to the class struggle in the United States. The fight for self-determination of Puerto Rico has immediate ties and repercussions inside the United States.

Added to this is the fact that the Puerto Rican movement for independence has a history of organized resistance and armed confrontation with U.S. imperialism. Imperialism has never succeeded in crushing this movement.

It is for these reasons that U.S. imperialism is presently unleashing a wave of repression against the Puerto Rican independence movement, both here and inside Puerto Rico.

The struggle for the liberation of Puerto Rico poses in the most immediate sense the link to the revolutionary upsurge of the Latin American working class that is presently taking place in Central America and which is being prepared throughout the Americas. It poses in the most immediate and concrete sense the revolutionary unity of the U.S. working class with the struggle for freedom against U.S. imperialism taking place throughout the Two Americas.

It is this unity that the U.S. ruling class fears the most. The present repression against the Puerto Rican independence movement is an attempt to prevent this unity by isolating the struggle of the Puerto Ricans from that of the U.S. working class.


The struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico is the

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fight of the U.S. working class. It is the expression and the continuation at home of the revolutions taking place in Central America and the defense of Puerto Rico is part of the defense of these revolutions.

The fight for the independence of Puerto Rico is thus at the same time the fight for the revolutionary unity of the workers of the Two Americas, North and South. The key to this fight is the struggle inside the U.S. working class to unite the working class and in particular its most oppressed sectors around a program of struggle against U.S. imperial-

ism, which at the same time must be a program to prepare the revolution in the home of U.S. imperialism.

Only the Workers Party can lead this fight because only the Workers Party stands for this revolutionary unity. Puerto Rican independence is part of its program because the fight to free Puerto Rico is the fight for the American revolution.

It is part of the fight for the Conference for the Construction of the Fourth International in the Two Americas. Join it.

April 14, 1980

Free Carlos Torres and His Comrades!

Last week in Chicago, police arrested and imprisoned Carlos Torres and 10 comrades; Puerto Ricans associated with the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN).

The imperialist police and press call them "terrorists." THIS IS A LIE, part of a stream of lies against the colonial revolution and its advocates.

The FALN is fighting for Puerto Rican independence against American imperialism and has led militant actions including bombing imperialist military bases in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The FALN is TOTALLY JUSTIFIED in its actions!

This is the fundamental political question which imperialism wants to bury with talk about "terrorism." Independence for Puerto Rico or

imperialism?

When Torres and his comrades were arrested they shouted: "Free Puerto Rico!" They refused to identify themselves and refused to recognize the authority of the U.S. court.

Such loyalty to principles imperialism can't tolerate. THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER. One of the last FALN militants arrested and imprisoned -- Angel Rodriguez Cristobal in Tallahassee, Florida -- was assassinated in his cell. Police claimed he hung himself but there was a gash on his head and blood six feet from where he hung.

REMEMBER CRISTOBAL!
FREE TORRES AND HIS COMRADES
NOW!

April 13, 1980

TRUTH

For A United Socialist Germany (Part I)

The Revolution and the German Workers

By KEVIN FITZPATRICK

The questions of the German Revolution are coming to the center of the international struggle of the working class.

Confronting the proletariat is the existence of the so-called "two Germanys." In fact, this is not really a question of geography but of politics.

Germany was divided in two, between "East" and "West," between Stalinism and imperialism, in order to break the unity of the most powerful and best organized working class in Europe.

At the same time, this division of Germany by the post-war Holy Alliance of Stalinism and imperialism was the key to and the expression of the division of the whole European proletariat.

Thus, the defeat of the forces that have divided Germany and its revolutionary reunification is the key to the unity of the European Revolution -- political revolution in the East, social revolution in the West.

This Holy Alliance, now shaken by the revolutionary mobilizations of recent years, is striving to patch itself up, to REARM itself. Central to these plans is the Madrid Conference (scheduled for November of this year) "on security and cooperation" (for the Holy Alliance) "in Europe."

Imperialism sees the road to this "security" as lying through more "cooperation" -- that is, CAPITULATION -- from Stalinism. In this capitulation the question of Germany is central. Will the socialist conquests in the East be liquidated in the name of "unification" of Germany under the rapacious German capitalist class? Will the strivings of the workers in the West be crushed by the new lease on life given to their class enemies?

The struggle against Madrid, for the boycott of it and for the Counter-Conference for the Socialist United States of Europe, is key to organizing the victory of the workers, to achieving a united and socialist Germany in the struggle for the revolution throughout Europe.

This is the first in a two-part series on the significance of the German Revolution. This first article is particularly concerned with smashing the lies of the "guilt," of the "collective responsibility" of the German people for the crimes of fascism. This "guilt" is a key justification for the division of Germany, a means to keep workers everywhere from seeing the struggle of the German workers for what it has always

been: an inseparable and leading element of their own struggle.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, the German proletariat sustained a defeat of world historic proportions.

This working class, with almost a century of struggle behind it, with its huge working class parties, its massive unions, its newspapers and all kinds of organizations, was reduced in a few years to an atomized and crushed subject mass.

How could this have happened to the working class that for so long had seemed the most advanced element of the world proletariat, the working class that had built its organizations -- not "peacefully" -- but in long and massive and illegal (under the "Anti-Socialist Laws" of Bismarck) struggle?

How could this have happened to the working class that had produced the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), the party that was the core of the Second International, that was the model and example and teacher for every socialist party in the world?

The answer is simple -- betrayal. The "tragedy of the German proletariat," as Trotsky called it, lay in the fact that the leaderships of this working class -- the Social Democratic and Communist parties -- had systematically deceived, demoralized and confused it.

Their policies led the German workers to the slaughter. And, what is even worse, these policies enabled Hitler to come to power with virtually no resistance -- no strikes, no battles -- on the part of this working class. To be defeated in battle is one thing. To be defeated without ever having fought is a moral blow that shatters the consciousness of a class.

The roots of this betrayal lie in the history of the German workers movement. Virtually from the beginning -- just as with every other proletariat but because of the centrality of the German struggle all the more critical -- there has been a deep conflict between the revolutionary aspirations and drive of the masses and the conciliationism and class collaboration of those who put themselves forward as their leaders.

The political struggle of the German workers revolves around this conflict. The struggle by Marx and Engels against Lasalle, who collaborated with Bismarck, as well as their constant

political battles with the leadership of the SPD which sought accommodation to German imperialism, were the basis for the advances of the German working class.

At the end of the nineteenth century this conflict came to a head. A whole wing of the SPD, the union bureaucrats and middle class democrats especially, openly came out for reform against revolution.

The struggle against this "revisionism," especially by those gathered around Rosa Luxemburg, was again the key to a continued progressive role by the German workers. This struggle became part of the political education of the whole revolutionary wing -- especially the Bolsheviks -- of the Social Democracy internationally.

The "revisionists," resting on the privileges granted by German imperialism, had the upper hand. When the greatest test came in 1914 with the outbreak of the first imperialist world war, these traitors supported their own bourgeoisie and its war.

Once again, it was only political struggle by Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht which prevented the political liquidation of the German working class. Rosa Luxemburg pronounced the Social Democracy "a stinking corpse." Painfully, slowly, all too slowly, the revolutionary elements set out on the road of building a new party, a road particularly inspired by the example of the Russian Revolution in 1917.

A great revolutionary wave swept Germany which was betrayed by the Social Democrats, culminating in the crushing of the "Spartakus" rising in Berlin in 1919 and the murders of Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

Against these betrayals, the German Communist Party had been founded. Here was a party of an International that stood for all the goals of the revolutionary German workers. The road to victory was now open.

But the fate of the German Revolution, as throughout its history, was completely part of the international class struggle. The defeat of the German Revolution was the critical element in the isolation of Soviet Russia. On this isolation and these setbacks grew a limited and conservative bureaucracy, a new variety of "revisionists," in the USSR.

These Stalinist bureaucrats expelled the revolutionary elements from the leadership of the Communist Parties internationally. They turned these parties into means of seeking

accommodation with imperialism. The German workers now found from the International they had looked to for the culmination of the struggle an international repetition of the betrayals they had turned away from at home.

The degeneration and Stalinization of the Communist International are the key to the defeat of 1933.

In 1924, the German workers were again on the march. But due to the indecisiveness of the CP leadership and the fear of the Comintern leadership, they were again defeated.

With the coming of the depression in 1929, the crisis took on an especially sharp form in Germany. The crisis drove the bourgeoisie to extreme solutions -- that is, Hitler -- but the Stalinist leadership only to extreme confusion and from there to betrayal. Because the Social Democrats were allegedly "social fascists," the Stalinists refused to form the united front with them. The CP preached that the victory of Hitler would be no different than existing governments and besides -- "after Hitler, us" -- the CP would simply stroll into power later.

This whole policy demoralized the workers who saw the fascists scoring victory after victory unopposed. It drove the middle classes into the arms of the Nazis -- who would "do something."

This terrible conflict between the aspirations of the German workers and their leadership thus found an expression in the party to which they had looked to resolve this conflict. This is the key to their defeat.

At the same time, the international significance of the German Revolution was such that this defeat marked the beginning of a whole series of defeats -- ending in World War II -- for the proletariat.

The Social Democrats and Stalinists -- precisely those who rule "East" and "West" today, had forfeited any claim to revolution. Thus the events of 1933 marked the turn by the elements expelled by the Stalinists toward building a new revolutionary leadership for the German and world proletariat. "For New Communist Parties and the New International," wrote Trotsky.

Today, the Fourth International carries on this struggle, fighting for the German and world revolution against the Stalinists and Social Democrats who have betrayed the German workers.

April 15, 1980

The Struggle to Free Klebanov and Zadrozynski:

A Struggle for Workers Rights in the USSR and Eastern Europe

Reprinted from *La Quatrieme Internationale* No. 81-82

By ALAIN CAVALIER

After the intervention of Stalinist troops in Afghanistan (an intervention carried out in the interests of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism), U.S. imperialism and its leader, Carter, have revealed the true character of their campaign for "human rights."

A campaign to disarm the workers by presenting socialism to them as a bureaucratic dictatorship, and to REARM imperialism and its terrorist states. This confirms, if it needed any confirmation, that the Fourth International was right not only in warning the workers but in organizing their class independence from imperialism.

The time has come for honest militants of the centrist organizations and the Communist Parties to draw a balance sheet. "Euro-" Stalinists and centrists, tailing imperialism, have all at once discovered Stalinist repression. Forthwith, they declared in all registers that it was necessary to be "effective" and that "human rights" had no class boundary. Then they swore that it was possible to use Carter, to use imperialism, in order to be effective and to actually obtain the liberation of prisoners.

Onto this road they drew a number of honest militants, intellectuals and workers who really wanted to fight Stalinist repression.

The Fourth International has never ceased to fight against Stalinist repression from the proletariat's class point of view. That is, by denouncing Carter's campaign and its content. Because for us Stalinism is not an entity distinct from imperialism. It is its agency within the international workers movement as well as in the deformed and degenerated workers states of Eastern Europe and the USSR. Stalinism represses and attacks workers rights in Eastern Europe in the interests of imperialism.

Carter's campaign did nothing but strengthen this anti-worker attack, including carrying it out to its conclusion (farther than the bureaucracy would like) by liquidating the socialist

conquests.

In reality, this "human rights" campaign was only the mobilizing support of an anti-Leninist campaign that sought to identify Leninism with Stalinism, the dictatorship of the proletariat with the dictatorship of the bureaucracy, attacking the class independence of the proletariat in the name of "man in general" (bourgeois and proletarian) before falling in behind U.S. "democracy."

It isn't necessary to go very far to understand the real nature of this campaign. It is enough to look at Latin America where "human rights" means the institutionalization of the most ferocious military dictatorships. It is enough to observe, just "observe," U.S. activity in Iran and elsewhere. Many have not wanted to keep their eyes open. They gathered together behind the centrists and "Euro-" Stalinists in the Sacred Union with the imperialists.

Has this been effective in freeing the imprisoned in the USSR and the other Eastern European countries? No way. Apart from the exchange of the Soviet oppositionist Bukovsky for the Chilean CP leader Corvalan, an exchange worthy of slave-traders, nothing effective. But for deepening the offensive of imperialism, yes, it has been effective -- TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

For the masses are not dupes of beautiful phrases. They reacted to what attacked them. They mobilized powerfully in Iran and Nicaragua and their struggle is embracing all of Africa, the Orient and Latin America. Imperialism has to advance, to REARM itself, in order to attack the masses and their conquests in the USSR.

Thus, the real content of the campaigns for "human rights," for the "boycott of the Moscow Olympics," acquire their full significance: an attack on the workers conquests, preparing the military attack on the socialist conquests where the bourgeoisie has been expropriated. "Human rights" are not for workers, but for imperialists.

The Fourth International was thus right to counterpose workers rights and the struggle for the liberation of Vladimir Klebanov (Soviet worker committed for having sought to found a union independent of the bureaucratic state apparatus) to these "human rights."

We were right to struggle for the workers movement, independently of imperialism, to mobilize itself by forming an INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE UNION BRANCHES in defense of workers rights and of workers prosecuted by the bureaucracy in Eastern Europe.

This is the balance sheet which must be drawn together with the honest militants of all the committees which were established in defense of the Eastern European militants but which submitted to imperialism's campaign.

This is the balance sheet that the militants of the OCI, whom their leaders have drawn into the formation of a "Committee Against Repression Everywhere," identifying the repression carried out in the name of socialism with that of imperialism's dictators, must draw.

Because for the OCI it is a question of the defense of democracy in general and everywhere. The OCI wants to orient the movement of the masses toward the static defense of a state of affairs which cannot exist in the epoch of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism. In our epoch, still more in the current crisis, nothing can be resolved in peaceful fashion. Neither for the proletariat nor for imperialism. In fact, the defenders of "democracy everywhere" do nothing but disarm the proletariat, force it into passivity or tie it to the wagon of imperialist "democracy," to its terrorist rearmament.

If this balance sheet has to be drawn, it is because -- today more than ever -- the workers of all countries have to defend those who are mobilizing in Eastern Europe.

First, because the proletariat of the USSR, of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and, above all, Poland is seeking the road of its independent organization in order to drive out the parasitic bureaucrats. In Poland, the situation is on the verge of revolutionary crisis. Second, because the bureaucracy has to confront this mobilization in an ever greater submission to imperialism; that is, by FEROCIOUSLY REPRESSING every attempt by the working class to organize itself and to make the most of its rights.

The defense of workers rights in Eastern Europe, integrating within this the defense of persecuted militants, is a fundamental task of the world proletariat in order to achieve its international unity on the basis of a real independence from imperialism, by fighting all its agencies, of which Stalinism is the major one. This is a fundamental task in support of the proletarian revolution whose elements are accumulating in Poland.

From now on, the proletariat of all countries must be vigilant in order to intervene, each time that it is necessary, by supporting the Polish workers. It is a question of fighting for the liberation of Edmund Zadrozynski (workers leader of the trade union independent of the bureaucracy in Poland) currently jailed by the bureaucrats.

This mobilization must be carried out together with the one to free Klebanov. This is a question of forming an INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE UNION BRANCHES which will fight immediately to free Klebanov and Zadrozynski by accumulating in this mobilization all the forces of the proletariat for support to the workers of Poland.

This is the road of struggle independent of imperialism!

For workers rights in the USSR and Eastern Europe!

For the liberation of Klebanov and Zadrozynski!
International Commission of Trade Unions and Trade Union Branches!

March 5, 1980

Defend the Cuban Revolution! Defend

By DAVID HEFFELFINGER

Even before Jimmy Carter expounded the "Carter Doctrine" in his State of the Union address, U.S. imperialism had already embarked on a course which seemed to be a full turn around from the policy of "human rights." This became clear in Cuba. A brigade of Russian soldiers was "discovered" by a Congressman running for re-election. The Carter administration used this flimsy information in order to mount a "simulated" invasion of Cuba by U.S. Marines.

In this series of three articles TRUTH will show that the "Carter Doctrine" is not an about face from the policy of "human rights," rather it is merely a new angle on the same policy of preparing the counterrevolution the world over. Key to this strategy is confronting the American working class.

This series may be taken as a WARNING as well: against CENTRISM, a current in the workers movement which traps American youth in the grip of "human rights." In the United States, representing CENTRISM internationally, the Socialist Workers Party has launched a campaign of vicious lies against the Cuban revolution.

The SWP is the main organization of the United Secretariat, a bloc of pseudo-Trotskyist organizations worldwide, which recently fell apart in response to the upsurge of the revolution in Latin America. We will develop these questions further, making only one point here. Lacking any independent perspective, CENTRISM gravitates toward Washington or Moscow. This we will prove.

CUBA -- GAPING WOUND FOR IMPERIALISM

Clinging to the tattered remnants of Carter's "human rights," the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, Andrew Pulley, recently released a statement calling for "normalizing relations" between Cuba and the United States. This is a statement worthy of the U.S. State Department, as evidently the SWP wishes to prove.

Youth in the United States may not recall the initial response of American imperialism to the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship in Cuba. An invasion force of thousands of CIA trained counterrevolutionary troops was launched against Cuba. It was called the "Bay of Pigs" invasion. The bloodthirsty American bourgeoisie, which had installed and supported Batista's slaughterhouse, was trying to "normalize" relations with Cuba, at gunpoint.

Incidentally, the President which ordered this invasion was not Eisenhower, or any "conservative," it was John F. Kennedy.

The invasion was defeated -- by the courage of Cuban workers and peasants who defeated it militarily, and by the American working class and its most oppressed sectors. Blacks and Latinos in this country openly sympathized with the Cuban revolution, making the "Bay of Pigs" invasion politically volatile for U.S. imperialism.

The Cuban revolution opened a breach in the domination of Latin America by U.S. imperialism. It is the first WORKERS STATE in the Americas, and despite the STALINIZATION of the revolution undertaken by Moscow



and Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolution has served as an inspiration to the revolutionary youth of North and South America.

The FATE of the Cuban revolution is not in the hands of Castro, or the U.S. State Department. To a large extent, not only for Cuba but for the international struggle against imperialism, the American working class will decide the direction of the political situation. The "simulated" invasion of Cuba may cause many youth to see that war is inevitable. But, in reality, it only proves that right now, the U.S. bourgeoisie is totally incapable of war. In order to prepare war, the ruling class must first confront the American working class.

The fall of Somoza and the Shah signalled the defeat of Carter's attempts to "democratize" the butchers put in power by U.S. imperialism. On a world scale, the situation is now clearly dominated by the revolution -- the fight of workers and oppressed in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and the world over.

American workers and youth remain the obstacle to imperialism's desire to crush this mobilization. The response of American youth to Carter's plan to renew the draft -- hundreds of thousands demonstrating in the streets, defeated months of propaganda and maneuvering by the U.S. ruling class.

This mobilization was aimed AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM, but its leadership is dominated by those who still cling to "human rights" and the loyal servants of U.S. imperialism -- the Stalinist apparatus from Brezhnev to Castro.

DEFENSE OF CUBA NOT DEFENSE OF STALINISM

The fundamental problem of the revolution is the need for the working class and the youth to have their leadership based on a program of CLASS INDEPENDENCE. The essen-

tial meaning of the Fourth International is the fight to construct this leadership against STALINISM, a counterrevolutionary current in the workers movement based on the setback of the Russian Revolution.

CASTROISM has no independent existence apart from the Kremlin. CASTROISM IS A CENTRIST APOLOGY FOR STALINISM. That is the real meaning behind twenty years of support to the Castro bureaucracy by the Socialist Workers Party.

Today, when the crisis of the bureaucracy has become a key element in the Latin American revolution, the SWP has deepened its capitulation to the Stalinist apparatus. There is not the slightest contradiction between this fact, and the fact that by defending CASTROISM, they are defending U.S. imperialism and the imperialist rearmament against the youth.

"If I were an American, I'd vote for Jimmy Carter in 1980." This is Fidel Castro speaking in June of 1978.

"Outside Lenin, Trotsky and Sverdlov, the Cuban leadership is far superior to the Bolsheviks." This is Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the SWP speaking in 1979.

These are the links in the chain that string from imperialism to its henchmen. From Carter to Castro, from Castro to (less notable) Barnes.

Castro was the centerpiece of Carter's "human rights" policy in Latin America. Far from representing an independent class perspective, from being "superior to the Bolsheviks," Castro is a tool of U.S. imperialism. A combination campaign manager and hatchetman.

"Human rights" was a maneuver based on the so-called "democratization" of the dictatorships installed by U.S. imperialism -- Videla, Pinochet, and Banzer, and in the U.S. the attempt to reconstruct the "liberal, labor, black" alliance around the Democratic

in Revolution! Defend the Cuban Revolution!

the Cuban Revolution! Defend the Cuba

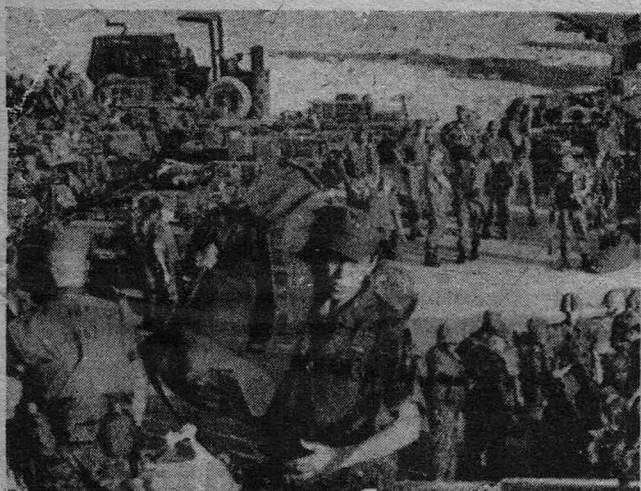
Party in the 1976 elections. Castro was one of the first to jump on the bandwagon.

But the powerful mobilization of the oppressed masses of the world dealt Carter's "human rights" policy a deadly blow. Even more so did the offensive of the proletariat in Latin America provoke an international crisis in the Stalinist apparatus.

In the Castro regime, this crisis is irreversible. Before the Cuban revolution, the Communist Party of Cuba was one of the most servile defenders of imperialism. Along with the American CP it developed the theory that American "democracy" was in fact socialism at its best.

Though the Cuban CP played no role in the actual insurrection in Cuba, Castro brought many former functionaries of the party into his new government as part of the STALINIZATION of the Cuban revolution.

Certainly, the shakeup in the bureaucracy only months ago was the product of not only the upsurge of the proletariat in Latin America and the fight of the youth in the U.S. but also the panic and confusion of the various currents in the bureaucracy itself. Far from "streamlining" the government of



Marines landing in Cuba.

Cuba as the SWP theoreticians say, this shakeup underscored the fragility of the bureaucracy in Cuba.

The centrist apologists have tried to whitewash everything, from Raul and Castro's public denunciations of the young workers, to the latest crisis -- 10,000 Cubans at the Peruvian embassy trying to emigrate.

In a headline in THE MILITANT, press of the SWP, the centrists say "10,000 Choose to Stay." Going on to say that these Cubans are merely "faint-hearted" elements of the Cuban middle classes.

Even if this is true, the fact that Cuban society is being torn apart by class forces is just as much a condemnation of Castro's STALINIST policy of "peaceful co-existence" with imperialism.

Castro's open support of Carter and his policy of "human rights" leaves him with no defense. The very class elements antagonistic to the worker's socialist revolution, are

those which have grown under Castro's regime and now would abandon the revolution altogether.

It is the proletariat that will lead the Cuban revolution forward -- AGAINST CASTROISM.

The depth to which the bureaucrats in Cuba have been shaken by the fall of Somoza and the struggles of the Latin proletariat is shown by the vicious attack it has levelled against the youth in Cuba.

Speaking of young workers entering the workforce, Raul Castro told a detachment of the military Youth Corps that the youth bring with them "the terms of indiscipline and other negative tendencies...which must be eradicated with the same urgency that is applied to fighting the worst plagues."

In the same MILITANT article, the centrists say, "Raul Castro's recent speeches are a sign of the strength and confidence of the revolution, not of its weakness."

Yes, they are a sign of the "strength and confidence of the revolution," but not of the Castro bureaucracy which is in total crisis before the revolutionary youth of Cuba.

At the same time that the youth of Cuba are responding to the class struggle on a world scale, even more important is the effect of this mobilization on the class struggle in the Americas. Their struggle brings the UNITY OF THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION much closer on a world scale. That is, the POLITICAL REVOLUTION in the countries of the socialist conquest, with the SOCIAL REVOLUTION in the capitalist camp.

Along with the DANGER that the Cuban revolution could be finished by Castroism, there is the fact that the Cuban revolution can spark the downfall of U.S. imperialism in Latin America and at home.

For this reason the struggle to defend the revolution in Cuba IS AN URGENT TASK OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. An urgent task facing American youth.

U.S. OUT OF CUBA! DISMANTLE GUANTANAMO!
NO BLOCKADE OF GOODS TO CUBA! END THE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE REVOLUTION!

In the same sense, the Cuban revolution will be made AGAINST CASTROISM, and AGAINST THE CENTRIST APOLOGISTS FOR STALINISM.

FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKERS OF THE USA AND CUBA!

FOR THE UNITED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE AMERICAS!

April 16, 1980



dynamic
of the cuban
revolution
the trotskyist view
by joseph nansen

**A CENTRIST
APOLOGY
FOR STALINISM**

A TRUTH PUBLICATION
DECEMBER, 1978
25 CENTS

ution! Defend the Cuban Revolution!

Organization of the Youth for Class War

On March 22, 30,000 people assembled in Washington, D.C., a good percentage of which were draft age youth, to oppose U.S. imperialism's war moves. The Fourth International, the World Party of the Socialist Revolution, and a contingent of the Revolutionary Youth International waged a political combat with the young militants present to break completely with the bourgeois order and to confront the opportunists and traitors who would organize the workers and youth for defeat.

A clear plan of combat for the world revolution is what we have to offer the youth and the working class as a whole. The means to grapple with the confusion, to develop a clear perspective for a daily political fight, and to utilize the methods of CLASS STRUGGLE -- in short, the daily struggle for the revolution.

The problem of organizing this

struggle falls on the shoulders of a revolutionary leadership that does not compromise, that does not make concessions, that concretely links the struggles of the workers and masses of oppressed around the world. The Fourth International is that party and every class conscious worker and youth shares the responsibility of constructing that party in a combat against U.S. imperialism and its Stalinist servants.

The youth play a key role in the struggle. As the most militant and bold sector of the working class, the youth represent a formidable army. This army must be organized and forged as a weapon of the international working class. This can only be achieved as part of a daily political fight to clarify our objectives and methods.

In the April 4, 1980, issue of TRUTH (#112) the article titled "Fast and Fierce" began taking up

the question of organizing fast food workers in the metro-Detroit area. The Detroit Fast-food Workers Union, a branch of United Labor Unions, is making this fight among workers in the fast food industry, pushing demands concerning wages, hours and respect on the job.

Already the DFW has succeeded in developing a completely insufficient program to wage a combat for even basic "demands." Even more, is that they have managed to disarm the youth who want to wage a real war against the fast food tyrants.

What is necessary is a clear plan of action. The restaurant operators and their lackeys have been pushing lies, issuing malicious statements about union organizers which must be denounced by all workers.

What is necessary is that this new union be transformed to reflect the very character of the people it represents --

working class youth -- strong, combative, with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

The Black Operators, a coalition of black owners of fast food franchises, have accused the DFW of "selective, discriminatory organizing." This feeble attempt to cause confusion fools nobody. It is not a question of race but of class antagonisms. Youth must reject the idea that capitalists are any better because they are "black."

This fight requires the commitment of the American working class as a revolutionary class. It requires the commitment of the youth organized in the Detroit Fastfood Workers Union and the youth as a whole to construct a revolutionary leadership.

April 14, 1980

Heed the Call of the Salvadorean Masses

By FRED VITALE

On April 1, the Revolutionary Coordinating Committee of the Masses (CRM), representing the organizations of the majority of workers and peasants in El Salvador, issued a call to American workers and youth: "We request that the popular and trade-union organizations of the United States put pressure on their government to halt the economic and military aid that it plans to give (the Salvadorean) government."

The defense of the Salvadorean revolution is an urgent task for the U.S. working class. The Fourth International calls on every worker and youth, every union to join with it in fighting for: No aid to the junta! U.S. "advisors" out! Down with U.S. imperialism!

The Carter regime installed this "moderate" dictatorship seven months ago in the name of "human rights." Since it came to power, free speech, travel and assembly have been outlawed. Over 900 people have been murdered by its troops and police. Thousands more wounded and "disappeared."

The U.S. press has always lied for, and covered up the crimes of U.S. imperialism. But in the case of El Salvador, it has sunk even lower than usual.

On March 30, at the funeral of Archbishop Romero, murdered by the CIA (see last issue of

TRUTH), 500,000 workers and peasants demonstrated their anger at this assassination. The junta's troops fired into the crowd murdering 50-100 people. Now they are claiming, along with U.S. Ambassador Robert Whyte, that "leftists," particularly of the CRM, are responsible!

The Fourth International denounces these vicious slanders against the CRM, and we call on all workers to defend them unconditionally against attack by the junta and U.S. imperialism.

U.S. clergymen visiting El Salvador rejected the Carter government's version and spoke of "systematic atrocities by uniformed soldiers." U.S. reporters denounced the junta for stealing their news film and using it to "prove" their lies. And, two Dutch reporters who merely questioned the junta's version were found dead the next day.

The U.S. press has covered up all of this and printed the lies of U.S. imperialism as if it were the gospel truth.

This is a desperate and despicable attempt to prevent the unity of the U.S. workers with the world revolution, particularly in Latin America, by the most advanced workers and youth who want to JOIN the world revolution against U.S. imperialism.

April 16, 1980



El Salvador

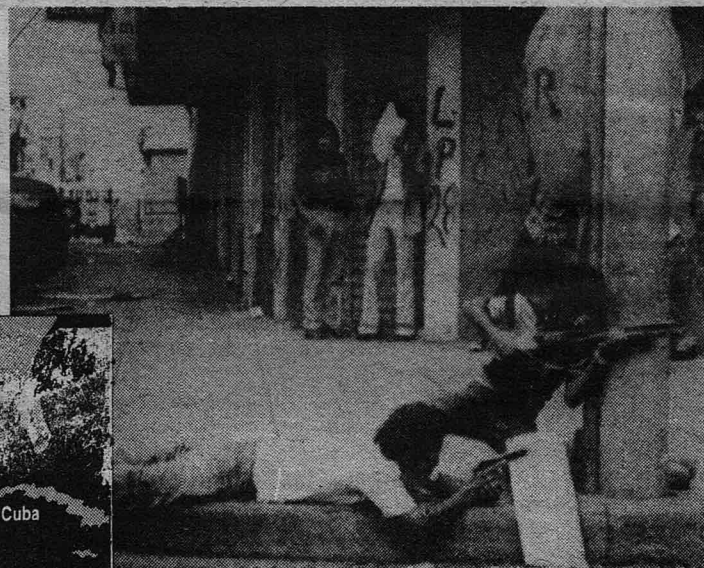
When asked to comment in a recent interview on the situation in Central America, Sergio Ramiriz a Minister of the Government of Nicaragua, declared "our relatives are very cordial and friendly" with the junta in El Salvador. (LE MONDE, March 26, 1980).

If the FSLN's arrests of revolutionaries, suppression of strikes, and protection of the big landowners didn't convince you that they were counterrevolutionary then this "foreign policy" statement will.

Unless you are cynical opportunists like the Socialist Workers Party, falsely claiming to be the Fourth International, which calls the FSLN government a "workers and peasants government" and the FSLN a "revolutionary vanguard."

We're quite sure the FSLN's "foreign policy" is not lost on the Salvadorean masses. They have names for such "leaders" and "parties," and "revolutionary vanguard" is not one of them!

April 16, 1980
TRUTH



British Steel Strike:

A Leadership That Will Go All The Way!

On April 1, the bureaucrats running the British steelworkers unions accepted an agreement that ended the 13-week strike against the nationalized British Steel Corporation.

This agreement was rightly attacked by militant steelworkers, who charged the meeting room chanting: "Sellout! Sellout!"

The workers also (in the words of the NEW YORK TIMES) "kicked, mauled and spat upon the committee members."

This strike was the longest in Britain since World War II. It was certainly among the hardest fought.

And that is because this strike was not really about "economic" issues at all.

When British capitalism offered a 2% wage increase, coupled with a proposal for 52,000 layoffs, it was not "bargaining."

It was engaging in a direct attack on the strongholds of the British working class, just as the French and German capitalists had done earlier. These attacks, under the name of "restructuring," are going on all over the world,

especially in auto and steel.

And just as their French and German brothers did, the British workers responded with a mass upsurge that broke out of the "normal" framework imposed by the bureaucrats. Sympathy strikes by other workers, independent organization in the form of flying picket squads and strike committees, mass demonstrations, all showed the determination of the steelworkers to defeat their enemies.

That is why there is rage at the agreement accepted by the bureaucrats -- a 17% wage increase in face of 20% inflation, no change in the layoffs.

All during the strike, the workers were driving toward posing their own power in opposition to capitalist rule in Britain. That is why the proposal for a general strike -- a complete shutdown of the economy by mass action of the workers -- was enthusiastically greeted.

The general strike would have meant total victory immediately, instead of a "qualified defeat" for Mrs. Thatcher's (reactionary British Prime Minister--TRUTH) policy."

Because the general strike shows the power the workers have -- the power to totally halt the economy -- it raises the question of questions: WHO WILL RULE?

But the bureaucrats are committed to capitalist rule in Britain. To save that rule they would gladly sell out any strike.

One bureaucrat was quite open about this. Len Murray (head of the TUC, British equivalent of the AFL-CIO -- TRUTH) explicitly stated "that he was not planning a strike to bring down the Government... 'If we did that we would not know what to do with the power we have got.'"

There is the truth!

"What to do with the power we have got" is no problem for a leadership that seeks to go all the way, that is out to build a Workers Government. That is a great opportunity that it will not let get away.

But for a leadership that seeks to preserve capitalism, such a situation is only to be dreaded. And its arrival is to be prevented by any means -- including open betrayal.

The great mobilization of the British workers, of the French and German workers, cried out for this leadership that will go all the way. For a leadership that will take the power!

This is what the Fourth International offers to the workers of the world in their struggle against "restructuring."

The scene now shifts to the U.S. Now it is the turn of the American steelworkers. Already, "restructuring" is underway, with Youngstown and other cities being turned into ghost towns.

All those who seek to preserve the rule of U.S. imperialism -- bureaucrats, Stalinists, pseudo-Trotskyists -- are joined in telling the U.S. steelworkers that they have to prepare for "negotiations," for a "new contract."

NO! To defeat their enemies, they must prepare the revolution. They must build the Fourth International as the Workers Party, the leadership that will go all the way. K.F.

April 14, 1980

Not "Autonomy," but Palestine to the Palestinians

By FRED VITALE

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt left Washington on April 11 and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is coming this week. The May 26 deadline for the "resolution of Palestinian autonomy" set by the Camp David "peace" accords is approaching and the imperialists and the traitor Sadat are no closer than they were a year and a half ago.

In fact, they are farther apart. Not because of any fundamental disagreements between Sadat and the imperialists but because of the blows from the Palestinian masses and their revolution.

This accord was billed as "Carter's greatest foreign policy triumph." Begin and Sadat won the Nobel "peace" prize. In fact, this "peace" was an agreement to liquidate the Palestinian nation, and the Palestinians have torn it to shreds. From the initial struggle against the accords, through the battle against the deportation of the West Bank mayors, to the latest general strike against

the "settlements," the Palestinian revolution has entered a new stage.

Sadat and Begin are coming to Washington (with three-way negotiations continuing daily on a lower "diplomatic" level) not to "revitalize" the Camp David accords but to develop a new framework for their "peace" that relies even more on Israeli terror.

For the Palestinian revolution to advance it must become a revolution to destroy Israel--there is no other road.

Israel is not a "home for Jews." It is run by Zionists who think that Jews should be enslaved by other Jews. Their best friends are the U.S. and South Africa.

But without the support of the Arab states, Israel could not exist another day.

Ever since Sadat came to power in 1970, and particularly since the Iranian revolution, he has been the leader in subordinating the Palestinians in imperialism. With the Camp

David accords he became the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel in 30 years and he legitimized the seizure of Palestinian land in the 1967 war.

Hassad of Syria and Hussein of Jordan both have fought alongside the Israeli army against the Palestinian refugee camps -- at Tel Zaatar in 1978 and the "Black September" massacre in 1970, respectively.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) headed by Yassir Arafat has now openly abandoned any pretext of struggle for Palestinian self-determination ("we will take the land the Israelis leave"). Instead it has "won" the "recognition of Palestinian self-determination" by the European bourgeoisie. This "European initiative" is going on in the UN where the PLO wants to get a resolution passed affirming the "human rights" of the Palestinians and their "right to return home or receive just compensation." But the Pales-

tinians want their land, not imperialist "human rights" or "compensation"!

These despicable maneuvers are desperate attempts to find a place in the "new" imperialist peace accord, because these leaders have been unable to control the masses.

The Shah's arrival in Egypt brought out tens of thousands of youth and workers. Syria was just jolted by its first general strike in ten years. And daily the Palestinians go beyond the framework established by the PLO.

As if to prove its commitment to "peace," Israel invaded Lebanon last week, leaving troops there as the first step of another "occupation."

The struggle of the U.S. workers and youth must be against the Camp David accords, "old and new," for the destruction of Israel through the preparation of the Socialist Federation of the Middle East.

April 12, 1980

"Ballot or the Bullet"

Cruel, As Usual

By JON COHEN

This is the real preparation of the elections -- repression against militant "foreigners" in an attempt to further isolate U.S. workers from the world revolution.

Along with this have been the attacks on U.S. workers -- striking miners in West Virginia, striking teachers in Michigan. There are plenty of "rights" in this country, but the right to strike is not one of them.

Throughout all of this have been the cries for the "revitalization" of the FBI and the CIA. All the so-called "reforms" of the post-Watergate period have been buried in U.S. imperialism's haste to prepare civil war against the U.S. and international working class.

This proves not only the bankruptcy of Carter's "human rights" talk, talk designed to hide this repression, but also the bankruptcy of all those in the workers movement, especially the Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists of the SWP who told workers to put their faith in Carter's "human rights."

The November Presidential elections are being prepared through repression. Military preparation for war against the international working class, police repression at home. The

next President will be the leading candidate of this repression.

Speaking of the Presidential elections in 1964, Malcolm X coined the phrase "the ballot or the bullet." The phrase is appropriate today.

Either the working class today takes advantage of the electoral framework in order to combat the bourgeoisie on its own terrain by fighting for a revolutionary solution to today's political crisis, using the bourgeois elections as a means to openly combat the bourgeois parties and fight for the revolution, or it will face the bullets of its imperialist police tomorrow.

Organize or die. That was Malcolm X's message.

Bourgeois repression can't be fought on an individual level; today they have more bullets than we do. It can only be fought by organizing masses of workers and youth to prepare the confrontation with the bourgeois state and to lead the fight for trade union and democratic rights today.

William Rummel is an air-conditioner repairman in Texas. In 1963, when he was 20, he paid \$80 to buy some tires, with someone else's credit card. He was sent to jail.

In 1969 he forged a \$28.36 check to pay for a motel room. He went to jail.

In 1972 he agreed to fix an air conditioner and took \$120.75 in payment but never did the work.

He was convicted and is now serving a life sentence in a Texas prison under a new Texas law which requires giving a "habitual criminal" convicted of three felonies life imprisonment.

The U.S. Supreme Court just upheld this conviction as not in violation of the 8th Amendment prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment."

In Texas, writing a \$28.36 bad check is a felony, while a Houston cop recently convicted of drowning a Mexican was fined \$1 for committing a misdemeanor!

The April 5 issue of THE NATION was correct in terming this "Cruel, as Usual."

It isn't some aberration, just a "mistake" that happens in any "democracy." William Rummel expresses the norm of bourgeois justice in this country, the truth behind the mask of "democracy."

The United States ranks third in the world in per capita number of prisoners, just behind the Soviet Union and South Africa.

Thus it is not surprising that

during an election year, which is supposed to represent "democracy in action," which is supposed to show how this country is different from totalitarian regimes, the imperialist state is stepping up its repression and police terror against workers and youth.

Because the elections are only a facade designed to hide this terror and to allow this terror to be prepared and organized. It is not a contradiction, it is the point of it all.

Thus, during this "election year" a wave of repression has been unleashed against Puerto Rican militants, most dangerous to this imperialist state because they refuse to recognize its jurisdiction over them.

Along with the round-up of "foreigners" has been the chase after Iranian students and militants in the U.S., also dangerous because they represent a potential for the revolutionary unity of the workers of the U.S. with the revolution in the Middle East.

The coming elections are a means to do this, to fight their bullets by organizing the working class for the revolution today.

April 14, 1980
J.C.

Iranian Students, You Are Not Alone!

By BARBARA PUTNAM

While the masses of Tehran are rejoicing in the streets over Carter's "breaking all relations," the Iranian youth in the U.S. are being systematically punished. Because the Carter regime has found no way to stop the revolutionary process underway in Iran, he and his lackeys are getting their revenge on Iranian students. The repression and political attacks have tripled since Carter's latest announcements but Iranian students are not taking it lying down.

Carter's lackey friends across the border in Canada have rushed in to support Carter's twists and turns. They are finding less romantic pursuits than "saving hostages" now. Mohammed Baghar Zamane, an Iranian student attending a Canadian university, attempted to cross the Canadian border after Carter "lowered the boom." This student was savagely beaten by Canadian border patrol guards and hospitalized for several days with a bleeding throat.

But Carter can go lower. An

Iranian student killed himself in his cell, after spending several weeks in jail for the "crime" of protesting a speech of a former diplomat to the Shah at Louisiana Tech University.

This student left a message for American youth. He said he was killing himself to bring attention to what the Carter regime is doing to Iranian students in the U.S.

He did not live to understand the tremendous significance of the actions of the 43 Iranian students jailed along with him for the same "crime." They refused to recognize the legitimacy of bourgeois justice -- they would not enter the courtroom so "learned" men could pass their rotten judgment.

Their voices must be heard because the Carter regime is trying to isolate us from the Iranian students, trying to bury their struggle that is taking place HERE, in the belly of the monster, by making us believe it is something remote and far away, or something that does not concern American workers and

youth.

It concerns us very much that a bloody dictator's lackey can speak freely at an American university but that those who have felt the bloody hands of the Shah are jailed for speaking up, that the universities in the U.S. have hailed the Shah but will not let Iranian students in their doors.

We cannot afford to be lulled to sleep and think the revolution is far away -- it has to happen here. Iranian students -- you are not alone. Your best ally is the American working class.

We cannot allow the death of this student to go unavenged. The Iranian students have shown what it is to be fearless, to take the path of struggle against unimaginable pressures, now it is up to American youth to think, to draw conclusions about what their actions mean for the struggle that has to take place in the U.S.

These questions must find answers in the living struggle developing in the United States.

The conclusion staring us in the face is that this regime has no right to exist! That the bourgeois system does not have any legitimacy when all it really upholds is the right of the bourgeoisie to continue squeezing the life blood out of subject nations and to force the American working class to work like slaves to support it.

The Iranian students are not alone, because the American working class, with all its illusions and confusions, is building towards the day of a complete break with U.S. imperialism. They did not buy Carter's anti-Iran campaign, they did not buy boycotting the Olympics in Moscow, nor Carter's plans for the draft.

This means a political combat is necessary. It is necessary to join in the present struggle of the American working class to build the revolutionary party. The future of the revolution depends on it.

April 14, 1980
BARBARA PUTNAM

Election Boycott or Revolutionary Combat

By RICH TETRAULT

A key battle is being prepared in the 1980 Presidential Elections, one that does not hinge on the campaign of the capitalist candidates. This battle is being organized as a conscious, political confrontation with all the traitors of the American working class, from the Democratic Party to the Stalinist American Communist Party and the pseudo-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party. This battle is a revolutionary mobilization for the defense of the world revolution on the march and the immediate preparation of the revolution in the Two Americas.

The Trotskyist Organization/USA is fighting to develop this battle. Under the banner of the Fourth International, World Party of the Socialist Revolution, these Presidential Elections will receive the attention of the most class conscious workers and revolutionary youth. Attention not in the sense of voter turnout, caucuses or petty bourgeois coalitions but attention in the sense of political discussion and confrontation, of REVOLUTIONARY COMBAT.

It is this battle which must be at the center of the daily political life of every worker and youth. In the factories, schools and in the streets the methods of the working class must be the campaign strategy for a victorious proletariat.

A complete and uncompromised break must be developed between the agents of U.S. imperialism and the workers and masses of oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

The Trotskyist Organization/USA is developing this battle as only a revolutionary leadership can. Central to the battle plan is the construction of the WORKERS PARTY, a new leadership for the American working class, which will be the result of the combat being developed in these

elections and which revolves around one question -- the destruction of U.S. imperialism and its Stalinist servants.

The most oppressed sections of the American working class, blacks, Latins, the youth, must build the first battalions, the first elements of the Workers Party, a party which knows no limits and places no conditions on the struggle for workers control of industry and society. Within the grasp of the workers and youth lie the weapons to realize victory not only in these elections but in the battles that are surely to come.

There are an abundance of false alternatives being developed in this period of imperialist crisis by a number of masked bandits. The Trotskyist Organization/USA stands apart, struggling to rebuild the Fourth International in the U.S. and throughout the Americas by constructing the WORKERS PARTY. This task is the responsibility of every class conscious worker and youth who wishes to finish with this repressive government and build a new society.

In this way we can wage an immediate combat against the "economic crisis" in the U.S., a crisis which stems from the sharpening of the class war and which is a political crisis of imperialism and its supporting apparatuses. An end to unemployment, inflation and imperialist war will be achieved by constructing the Workers Party for a workers government -- TODAY!

We call on every worker and youth to join this struggle, to help prepare the Workers Convention for Labor Day in Detroit as the means to organize the voice of the American working class.

FOR A WORKERS CANDIDATE AND A WORKERS PROGRAM IN THE 1980 ELECTIONS!

April 16, 1980

A WORKERS PROGRAM!

1. UNCONDITIONAL DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIAL AND SEMI-COLONIAL NATIONS!
2. DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM -- STOP ITS PLANS FOR WAR!
 - Down with Carter's draft -- military training for the youth under workers control!
 - Boycott the November Madrid Conference on European Security and Cooperation -- For the Socialist United States of Europe!
3. FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKERS OF THE USA AND USSR!
 - Down with Stalinism, down with the Berlin Wall!
 - Free Klebanov, for independent trade unions in the USSR and Eastern Europe!
4. U.S. OUT OF LATIN AMERICA!
 - Independence for Puerto Rico!
 - For the Socialist United Republic of the Two Americas!
5. STOP CARTER'S AUSTERITY!
 - For a sliding scale of wages and working hours!
 - Jobs and technical training for the youth!
 - Workers control of industry -- expropriate the oil trusts!
 - Confront the crisis in auto -- for international unity of autoworkers, for an EMERGENCY NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE UAW!
6. DISARM THE TERRORIST STATE!
 - Stop plans to "revitalize" the FBI and CIA!
 - Down with the Voorhis Act which forbids workers belonging to international organizations!
 - Stop S.1722!
7. DISARM THE BOURGEOISIE -- FOR A WORKERS GOVERNMENT BASED ON WORKERS COUNCILS!

JOIN US!

I want to help build the fight for a Workers Candidate in 1980 . . .

Here's my signature _____

I am interested in attending the Convention _____

Please send _____ *copies of this Call.*

Enclosed is \$ _____ *contribution.*

Send to TRUTH, PO BOX 07066, DETROIT, MI 48207

International Young Guard/USA!

Contact:

IYG, PO Box 07066, Detroit, MI 48207

Defend Public Employees!

N.Y. Transit Workers Defy Carter's Budget Cuts

In the first major response to Carter's budget cuts, workers of the Transport Workers Union and Amalgamated Transport Workers Union in New York City, 33,000 strong, struck from April 1 through the 11th. Against the "sacrifice for New York and America" policy of the imperialist politicians, they shouted, "We gave, we gave, we gave. NO MORE!"

The workers were demanding wage increases that would let them catch up to inflation. The state-run Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) sought an end to paid lunches, night-time differentials, and the right to hire "part-timers." In other words, "productivity increases."

The workers defied weeks of anti-union hysteria whipped up by the government. In particular, the threat to use the Taylor law which forbids strikes by public employees under penalty of jailings and fines. The government mailed out letters to each transit worker two weeks before the strike threatening them with arrest if they struck!

Now, with a tentative settlement reached, the government has already begun deducting the fines from the workers' checks. Every worker and youth must demand: **DROP ALL THE FINES AGAINST THE TRANSIT WORKERS AND THEIR UNION!**

The workers fought their cowardly leadership and its "loyal opposition." These traitors could not even agree to accept the miserable settlement of an 8-9% wage increase and the elimination of some break time (the vote was 22-22). Against shouts of "sell-out!" and fearing the further independent mobilization of the workers, they agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** to send the workers back to work! They will vote during the next two weeks.

The strike is the first major response to Carter's "pain and discipline" message of March 14th, where the largest single budget cut was the \$10

billion in revenue sharing which goes primarily to the industrial states and large cities. Along with the 30,000 youth who marched in Washington and the 12,000 workers in Kentucky who demonstrated against cuts in workers compensation this strike shows the desire of the working class to enter the field of battle against the Carter regime and its policy of "sacrifice."

But this mobilization is hindered by its leadership. The transit workers, in defiance of their leadership, organized mass picketing that stopped scab buses and workers squads that sabotaged other transportation. All the elements were present for a general strike of transport workers in the NYC area.

These bureaucrats would not have lasted through this strike if they did not have the support of the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party who, in "supporting the workers," **ACCEPT THE ENTIRE FRAMEWORK OF SACRIFICE.**

Not only are they infatuated with the "loyal opposition," but along with them they try to answer the capitalists' demand, "Where is the money going to come from to pay the wage increase and maintain the 50 cent fare?" by saying "cut the military budget, tax the rich" and so on.

But the point is, it's **ALL OUR MONEY.** Every single penny that this government has was stolen from the working class. We produce **ALL** the wealth. The question is not, "Where is the money going to come from?" but what battle must we wage to get back **ALL** the just fruits of our labor?

A Workers Candidate in 1980 can give a revolutionary answer to this question. That is the first step to victory for the New York transit workers, for the NY city workers whose contract comes up in June, for all workers fighting the sacrifices.

April 14, 1980
FRED VITALE



N.Y. Transit Workers

Free the Woodhaven Teachers!

It could happen only to autoworkers, steelworkers or coalminers -- not to teachers! But there it was in black and white, in all the papers -- 9 striking teachers, handcuffed to a long chain, being hauled off to jail for disobeying a "back-to-work" order, destroying the myth of "professionalism" and putting them right beside the leaders of autoworkers and miners.

This strike, in Woodhaven, Michigan, has gone on since March 10. Teachers in 4 districts near Woodhaven went on strike after school administrations failed to respond to their demands for a contract, for decent wage increases in the face of inflation and the conditions of the schools.

Jailing these teachers, the closures of schools in and around the Detroit area, says it louder than all the myriad articles about overcrowded classrooms, rotting facilities, and the decay of public education -- this society is incapable of educating and training the youth.

A local TV station expressed the views of the local ruling circles in its "opinion." They said that the teachers should not be jailed -- this is "deplorable" -- rather they say "fire the teachers and make the union bear the responsibility."

In spite of this type of "publicity" and the sickening

whining about "our poor children are the ones who suffer" the strike goes on. The 9 teachers are still in jail but are not backing down at all.

The confidence and strength they are showing and their contempt for the court system and Judge Wise who put them in jail stems from a feeling that their actions will be supported and respected by the masses of workers and poor people, whose sons and daughters have to attend the same decaying schools they have to teach in.

The strike may very well go state-wide, but this by itself will not bring victory. The road to victory is not via a fight for a contract and even COLA, it is an all-round fight for revolutionary change of the system itself, that cannot provide for the education of the youth.

Education is a primary concern of the youth and of the entire working class, the resolution of this problem lies in a combat for a workers program and party that will develop the combat on different levels and direct it towards taking power in order to reorganize society at its basis. The teachers strike has to be taken up as a struggle of the working class, above all by the autoworkers.

April 14, 1980
BARBARA PUTNAM