

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

Edited by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, Supporter of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

Workers Revolution in Eastern Europe!

The workers revolution in Eastern Europe is inspiring working people throughout the world.

There are very few working people who cannot sympathize with millions of ordinary working people in the streets. Forcing governments to fall, occupying public buildings, investigating public officials who are robbing and persecuting the people, trying and punishing the worst offenders, and even arming themselves and taking justice into their own hands as some young working people in Romania are doing.

It is a matter of time before this workers revolution spreads in all directions — to the USSR, to China, to Western Europe, to the United States, and elsewhere.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is a revolutionary workers group named after the working class revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, who devoted his life to the struggle for workers revolution, against U.S. imperialism and against the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR.

We urge workers in Detroit to support the struggles of workers in Eastern Europe and the USSR to *complete* this revolution:

- for the unification of Germany, for free elections, for workers control of production, for the total destruction of the privileged, dictatorial Stalinist apparatus, for a total *workers political revolution*, in which the workers take direct control of economic planning and management through their own workers government, composed of their own freely and democratically elected representatives;

- no to Bush's and Gorbachev's plans to preserve the Stalinist bureaucracy and use it to turn over economies to greedy Western businessmen (as they are already doing in Poland, causing the Polish workers to suffer).

This demands a fight in the United States for:

- immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Germany and all European countries;
- workers control of the banks, basic industry and large-scale agriculture;
- a workers party to lead this political struggle.

American workers have nothing to gain by continuing to leave U.S. troops in Germany, by continuing to leave banks, industry, and agriculture in the hands of rich capitalists, or by continuing to support their Republican and Democratic parties. These forces are wasting society's resources; workers can do a better job. With our brothers and sisters in Europe, the USSR, Latin America, Africa and Asia, we can build a *truly* socialist society, where there are no rich capitalists, no rich bureaucrats, no want and no misery.

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

January, 1990

If you would like to know more about this struggle, call the Trotskyist Committee at 831-0593 or write Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.

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Which side are you on?

The privileged bureaucrats or New Directions?

There are working class and popular movements developing throughout the world against the privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats that have dominated the workers movement.

The uprising in China, the miners' strike in the USSR, the uprising in Germany, the insurrection in Romania, the uprisings in Azerbaijan and Lithuania today.

The same kinds of struggles are developing in the Americas, Africa and elsewhere.

Workers in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, and elsewhere are breaking with many of the old leaderships that are tied to the millionaire owners of the big corporations in the U.S. and Europe, that are privileged and serve their masters by suppressing other workers and oppressed people.

The New Directions Movement in the United Auto Workers union (UAW) is one of the first signs of these movements in the United States.

The New Directions Movement has taken a position against the top UAW leadership's policy of *concessions* to the millionaire owners of the auto industry. It has taken a position against the top leadership's policy of *privileges* to the top leadership and its friends. It has taken a position against the top leadership's policy of *suppressing oppositionists*. Many of the leaders of the New Directions Movement in the Detroit area — Sally Bier, Don Douglas, Pete Kelly, Pat Patterson, Ed Tweed — have led important strikes and other struggles against the millionaires and their puppets in the top UAW leadership.

All young people and working people in the Detroit area should support the New Directions Movement and its efforts to get the best possible contract for autoworkers, *against* the millionaire owners of the auto industry, and *against* the top leadership of the UAW (the so-called "Administration Caucus"). This leadership is a privileged, dictatorial leadership tied to the millionaire owners, much like the privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats in China, Eastern Europe and the USSR.

What you can do:

Come to the national rally sponsored by New Directions. Sunday, April 29, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Ford Civic Auditorium, Detroit, (near Cobo Hall).

Join the New Directions Movement and distribute its newsletter. (Write to New Directions, PO Box 6876, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Vote for New Directions candidates for local office. (At the Ford Rouge plant: Judy Wraight, Lonnie Spight, Ron Lare, Dwight O. Clay, Larry Matsey, Norman J. Seaver, Gary Walkowicz.)

It's also necessary to fight for New Directions to go all the way and totally break with the old UAW leadership all along the line. This means a fight for:

— An all-out fight against each and every attempted layoff and plantclosing now; divide all work among all workers without cutting workers' pay; if one worker's job is not safe, no worker's job is safe; don't wait for the contract.

— Integrate the skilled trades now; make the millionaires of GM, Ford, and Chrysler hire more Blacks, women, and other oppressed, until the percentage of Blacks, women and others is equal to or greater than their percentage in the local population.

— Cut all restrictions on the right to strike.

— Cut all union funds to the millionaires' political parties, Republicans and Democrats. For a workers party and workers candidates to fight for workers control of the auto industry, for taking the auto industry away from private millionaire owners and making it a public enterprise, run by workers, in the interests of the people.

For further information about this struggle contact *Truth*. *Truth* is fighting for a classless society, in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no want, no suffering, and no privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats, just people working together for the common good. In other words, *Truth* is fighting for a *truly* socialist and communist society.

Call Truth: 313-584-6556.

Write Truth: Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283.

April, 1990

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Cut the bosses' salaries and profits, not the workers' jobs!

Chrysler closed the Jefferson Avenue plant on Friday, February 2, and laid-off over 1,000 workers.

Iacocca, Chrysler president, says that he's not selling enough cars, that there is nothing else that can be done.

This is a lie!

— Divide the work among all the workers.

If the owners of Chrysler are no longer capable of developing this part of the auto industry, if they are no longer capable of running it in a way that benefits the people, then the workers must do so.

The needs of the workers, of the masses of people, must take precedence over the owners' profits.

The unions have the power to win many of these demands. The UAW, the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters have over 10 million members. It is almost impossible to produce anything without them. They are some of the largest, best organized, richest and free-est unions in the world. Thus there is absolutely no excuse for accepting one, single, solitary lay-off or plant-closing.

Workers must demand that their unions make an all-out fight to stop these lay-offs and plant-

closings now, with all the means at their disposal. (For example: an emergency national union conference against the lay-offs and plant-closings; a nationwide strike against the lay-offs and plant-closings.) Any union leader that refuses to support this struggle must be recalled and replaced with someone who does.

But workers will always have to struggle and suffer as long as a tiny minority of rich people own and control almost everything that the workers produce.

Thus we urge all workers and their organizations to enter into a united *political* fight for *workers control of all banks and basic industries*, for workers to begin to prepare to take over these banks and basic industries, transform them into public utilities under workers control, and begin to build a *truly* socialist society, in which there is no want, no suffering, and no privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats.

— Cut the workers' hours without cutting their wages.

— Cut the bosses' salaries and profits.

If Chrysler says that it cannot afford to do this, workers can fight for Chrysler to open its books to the workers, for workers control of Chrysler, for workers management of Chrysler, for taking Chrysler's assets and making it a public utility under workers control.

We urge workers and their organizations to build a united workers slate to make a political fight for these goals in the 1990 elections. We do not think that it is possible to establish workers control of the banks and basic industries through a political fight in the 1990 elections. But it is possible to win support for this struggle, and this is the first step.

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

(A revolutionary socialist workers group named after the revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his comrades)

February, 1990

To help build this struggle or for further information:

Contact a *Truth* distributor, call 831-0593, or write Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.

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All out for the New Directions conference, St. Louis, October 20-22

The New Directions group in the UAW is organizing a national conference in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 20-22.

We urge all workers in the UAW to support and participate in this conference.

The New Directions group is the only large group within the UAW that is making any large fight against the Administration Caucus and its policies at this time. The Administration Caucus has openly collaborated with the bosses in forcing the workers to make concessions to the bosses. This has resulted in suffering and misery for workers and their families on the one hand, and a privileged position for the Administration Caucus within the society and within the union, on the other. Thus we urge all workers to support the New Directions group against the Administration Caucus.

At the same time, it is necessary to fight for a more consistent, working class program for New Directions.

We, socialists, think this program should include a fight for:

- **Equality for Black workers and women workers now.** Open the skilled trades now. Fight for corporations to hire more Black workers and

women workers into the skilled trades until the percentage of Black workers and women workers in the skilled trades is equal to, or greater than, their percentage in the local population.

- **No layoffs or plant-closings.** Fight for nationalization of enterprises that refuse to stop layoffs or plant-closings, and for reorganizing them as public utilities under workers control.
- **Support Tony Mazzocchi's call for a labor party based on the unions.** Urge Mazzocchi to form this party now, before the 1992 elections.
- **No concessions.**

These are some of the things that we, socialists, think New Directions should fight for. Let us know what you think New Directions needs to do to revitalize the UAW!

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit
Box 441283
Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283
313-831-0593

For further information about the conference, including registration forms, write New Directions, Box 6876, St. Louis, MO 63144, or contact a worker working with New Directions at your plant.

Danger to Nicaragua!

No to giving power to the "contras"!

... They shall not win!

Statement of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International
(World Party of Socialist Revolution)

Working men and women!

The electoral victory on February 25 in Nicaragua of the party of bourgeois reaction, the legal arm of the "contras," the spokesmen for imperialist interests, is a **hard blow** for the Nicaraguan workers and peasants and for the cause of the emancipation of the oppressed peoples in general.

Once again it is necessary for us to declare ourselves ready to defend the Nicaraguan revolution, to support whatever the revolutionaries of this country do in order not to give power back to the "Somocista" bourgeoisie, George Bush's puppets, in order to defend **by the force** of the people in arms each conquest of the people.

They are right, those who shouted in Managua after the elections: "**No pasaran!**" (They shall not win!) Also, those who say that the army will not give up arms, because "**they were given to them by the people to defend the revolution,**" and those who add, "**the opposition won with money from the United States,**" and who refuse to give up power.

It is not strange that the bourgeoisie of all countries of the world and the leaders of the Kremlin are making **praises** to Ortega for his "recognition of the defeat" and his "desire to organize the transfer of power." The most conscious workers, the "Sandinista youth," and the fighters of the revolution **are refusing** to recognize it. Those who now praise Ortega's "wisdom" are precisely the ones who have been in the process of pressuring the FSLN, suffocating the Government in Nicaragua, internationally isolating the country, threatening it and dragging out of it one concession after another to the reactionaries, to the point of achieving the electoral

victory ...

The bourgeoisie demands that the "verdict of the ballot box" be respected. But you can't demand that the people respect "the verdict of the ballot box," when foreign mercenary intervention does not respect them. This verdict serves for nothing but to condemn to hunger those who refuse to drag themselves to the feet of imperialism. These elections, imposed with blackmail, serve for nothing but to finance the opposition with millions and millions of dollars. A band of multi-millionaire bandits from Washington that has miserably trampled on the rights of a people, cannot demand that these same people put election results above the interests of the revolution.

They are right, those who do not want to give up a single conquest of the people: **not** the lands where the peasants work, **not** the buildings where the people live, **not** the arms that they defend them with, **not** the power conquered from Somoza and his criminals. **Nothing** of this for the exploiters!

But, comrades, how did we get to this point? Why has such a large sector of the people turned their backs on the revolution and voted for the oppressors?

Because it is not possible to maintain the morale of the people, in extremely difficult conditions of hunger and war, **imposed** by the imperialists, **only with words.**

The Sandinista leaders — we Trotskyists said this from the beginning — are **not a working class leadership**, they are not really **Marxists**, they do not believe firmly in **socialism**, and they have not been **consistent** against the bourgeois enemy.

While the people maintained the offensive, demanding a tougher and tougher policy against the rich, the landowners, and the Somocista mercenaries, these Sandinista leaders let themselves be carried by the people and helped them advance.

But when the aggressions and the blackmail, the pressure and the collaboration between the imperialists in Washington and their friends in the Kremlin (Gorbachev and Co.) started, the Sandinistas let themselves be pushed by Washington and Moscow into one concession after another. They let the bourgeoisie reorganize, they protected its interests. They even made the Constitution respecting the bourgeoisie's properties. They closed in this way the road to a **deepening** of the revolution and let the most backward sector of the masses fall into demoralization.

They promoted "reconciliation" and "reconciliation" became a hypocritical banner of the Somocistas against the revolution.

At the meeting in Malta between Bush and Gorbachev, they planned the fate — the black fate — of Nicaragua, just as they planned the fate of Panama, and who knows if Cuba's, too.

It is impossible, before such pressures, to keep the people on their feet only with words. The people know how to support enormous sacrifices when it is clear that they are going along the road of **their emancipation**. But if they see, as in Romania for example, that the fruits of the revolution are being expropriated, usurped and wasted by a race of parasites, they turn against them. If they see, as in Nicaragua, that even honest people who govern, **protect** the property of the rich, accept international **agreements** that impede the progress of the revolution, free thousands of Somocista guards, then the people begin to doubt their victory, to drop their heads, and the most backward sectors turn their backs on the revolutionary vanguard ...

We **Trotskyists** — at least those of us who are so not just in words — have been struggling against the inadmissible **agreements** signed by the Ortega government. Against **Esquipulas**, against **Sapoa**, against the elections imposed, watched and organized by imperialism. We have been criticizing

each concession to the "contras," each betrayal of the Salvadoran brothers whose victory would have given new life to Nicaragua, each measure in favor of capitalist property, each step in the demobilization of the revolution ...

The "recognition of the defeat," and the "transfer of power" by **Ortega**, that the imperialist bandits and their lackeys are praising, is the latest of all these concessions that explains the electoral defeat on February 25 ...

Before each of these concessions, we Trotskyists have said: the revolution can **still** live, but it is necessary to take up a struggle against **Esquipulas**, against **Sapoa**, against Ortega's policy ...

Once again we say: it is easier for the bourgeoisie to influence the **vote** of a people that is **exhausted** and **hungry** than to tear down all their material conquests and take their arms. The revolution can **still** live, but it will be **against** Ortega's plans to leave power to the capitalists.

They are right those in Managua who shout: "They shall not win!" The International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International unites its voice with this shout and calls on all workers and youth to **solidarize** themselves with those who resist giving power to the spokesmen for the "contras," for Somocismo, and for the multi-millionaires from Washington.

Down with February 25!

No to the agreement to transfer power!

Long live the Nicaraguan revolution!

Do not give in! Get tough with the bourgeoisie and the contras! They shall not win! **NO PASARAN!**

International Secretariat of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (ILRFI)

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