

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

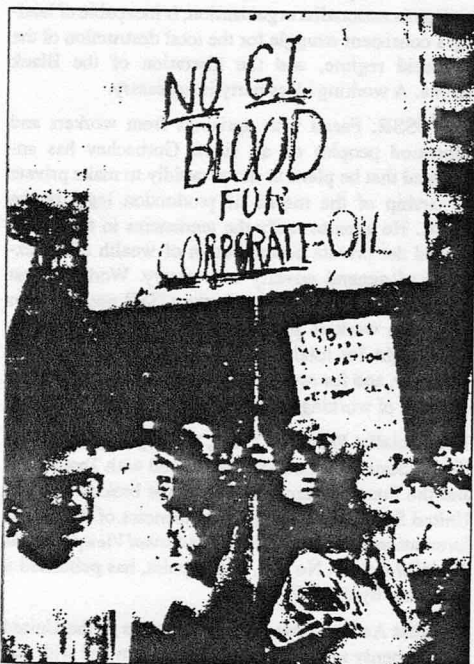
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# U.S. Out of the Middle East and All Foreign Lands!



The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit urges all workers and their organizations to make a united fight:

- Against the U.S. war on Iraq!
- U.S. forces out of the Middle East and all foreign lands and waters!
- Replace the standing army with a peoples' militia, linked to the factories, mines, farms!

## Strike Together!

8,500 Eastern Airlines workers are still on strike. 9,300 Greyhound workers are still on strike. 16,000 steelworkers in Canada, members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) went on strike on August 1. 335 nurses in Rochester are still on strike. 3,400 clerical workers at Blue Cross/Blue Shield may go on strike. Autoworkers may go on strike. Workers need to fight for their unions to support these struggle by drawing up a single platform of demands and organizing a single, nationwide strike, involving all unionized workers, to force the employers to meet their demands. The more workers fight along these lines, the more they will see the need, and the possibility, to totally liberate the working class from capitalist exploitation and oppression. ■

Working people will never make any big progress in improving their working and living conditions in the United States, or those of their brothers and sisters in other countries, as long as they allow the U.S. government to waste the tremendous resources of this country on maintaining and deploying a standing army ... a standing army to defend the finance capitalists, the oil and other monopolists, and their holdings in the Middle East and throughout the world ... a standing army that comes to the aid of any and every rich family that's paying the price for having exploited and oppressed its neighbors, like the royal family in Kuwait, and its counterparts

elsewhere in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Finance capitalists, monopolists, and rich families may need such a standing army, that travels all over the world. Working people don't.

We urge all workers and their organizations, especially Trotskyists, to make a united fight.

The more this struggle proceeds, the more working people will see the need to form their own workers party, their own workers government, take banks and basic industries away from the billionaire financiers and monopolists, and develop planned economy in the interests of the people. ■

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# What workers need to know about the war . . .

Bush's decision to send so many U.S. forces to the Middle East shows that the international order is falling apart.

Peoples of countries like Iraq possess tremendous natural resources like oil, yet they live in poverty and misery. If you took the entire income of Iraq, and divided it up evenly, there would only be \$2660 per person per year.

Many people in countries like Kuwait, on the other hand, collaborate with finance capitalists and monopolists in keeping the price of crude oil low. The oil monopolists are able to buy cheap, sell dear, and reap a huge profit. In exchange for their services, the kings, the royal families, and their supporters, in countries like Kuwait, are paid enough to live in luxury, while their neighbors suffer. The national income in Kuwait, divided evenly, is \$13,890 per person per year!

Is it any wonder that when Kuwait (most probably under orders from the big imperialist banks and oil monopolies in the U.S., Europe and Japan) refused to renegotiate a loan to Iraq and flooded the market with oil in an effort to undercut Iraq, that Hussein, the bourgeois head of Iraq, decided to try to resolve the problem by invading Kuwait and ousting the king and his family?

The only question is why it wasn't done sooner!

And is it any wonder that Bush, the head of one of the richest nations on earth, decided to send U.S. troops to the Middle East to save the king and his family, and all the others like them in the Middle East, that are now facing the anger of poor and hungry people.

This U.S. is not just worried about Hussein and the people of Iraq. It is especially worried about the "intifada," the uprising of the Palestinian people that has continued without interruption for over two years. They are afraid that this is going to spread throughout the Middle East, and throughout the world. The U.S. can no longer rely on the State of Israel, the bourgeois Arab regimes, or the Kremlin's parties, which have been totally discredited, to keep down the workers and oppressed in the Middle East. They have no choice but to send U.S. troops to save the rich and act as their policemen.

*Truth* is published in order to build support for:

- the liberation of the working class and all oppressed peoples;
- a workers party, a workers government, and a socialist revolution, in which workers take basic industries and banks away from billionaire private owners and begin a planned economy, run by workers, in the interests of the people; a step towards a classless society, with no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no want, no suffering, and no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats ... in other words, a fully communist society;
- rebuilding the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, to lead this struggle.

*Truth* is published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, which is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International. It is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

*Truth* and the Trotskyist Committee are open to all who share their goals and want to fight for them.

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While U.S. troops may be temporarily successful, in the long run, they are doomed to defeat. The more and more the U.S. spends on maintaining and using its standing army, the more and more the class contradictions in the U.S. itself are going to come out and grow.

The disintegration of the current economic, social, and political order will inevitably give way to a new social order in which the workers and oppressed masses will own and control the basic resources of the society, have their own parties, their own governments, and planned economies, run by the workers governments, in the interests of the people. Relations between workers of different races and nationalities will be fraternal, based on equality and mutual respect. This in turn will be a first step toward a truly socialist and communist society. The rise and fall of the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy in the USSR will turn out to have been a detour along the road.

It is in the best interests of the working class to proceed as quickly as possible in this direction. In order to do this it is necessary to:

1. Whenever a conflict arises, work to discern the class forces involved in the conflict; always support the exploited against the exploiter, the oppressed against the oppressor; in the Middle East, support Hussein, Iraq, and the workers and oppressed masses of the Middle East against the big imperialist powers, above all the U.S., and their puppets. The best way to do this in the U.S. today is to fight for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from the Arabian Peninsula, the Persian Gulf, and all foreign lands and waters, and for replacing the standing army with a peoples' militia tied to the factories, the neighborhoods, etc. This will help the workers and oppressed peoples of the Middle East in their struggle against the big imperialist monopolies in the United States, and the more and more workers in the U.S. struggle for these demands, the more they will see that they need to build their own party, their own government, and take the banks and basic industries away from these huge imperialist banks and monopolies.

2. Build workers parties to lead the workers and oppressed to power, establish workers governments, takeover the banks and basic industries, and initiate planned economies.

We urge all workers and their organizations that see the need for this struggle now, especially Trotskyists and their tendencies, to enter into a common fight for this program, and to rebuild the Fourth International to lead this struggle.

In Detroit, we urge workers to help distribute *Truth* and *The Fourth International*, and to join the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, which has made the most consistent struggle for this program in Detroit. — M. Guttschall ■

## Briefly ...

The New Directions Caucus in the UAW is fighting for the top leadership of the UAW to give full copies of the coming contract to workers before workers are forced to vote on the contract. The very fact that the auto bosses and their agents, the top leaders of the UAW, do not want workers to see their contract, shows that their contract will represent the interests of the bosses, not the workers. Workers need to fight for unity against the auto bosses, their agents in the union, and their contract, for a contract that expresses the workers' interests, and for a national strike against all three to advance in this direction.

The Workers World Party and the Socialist Workers Party are both running candidates for various offices in the coming elections in Michigan. Workers should support these working class candidates against the bourgeois candidates.

Mohawk Indians near Montreal, Canada are fighting the expansion of a golf club onto their land, for recognition as a nation, and for the right to self-determination, with arms and barricades. Workers should support this struggle against the central Canadian government. For further information, contact the Solidarity Coalition with Native People, (514) 598-2007.

The African National Congress (ANC) has called a strike against "violence" in Southern Africa. The ANC recently agreed to give up armed struggle against the racist apartheid regime; in their call for this action they do not clearly distinguish between the violence of the oppressed and the violence of the oppressor. This policy is emboldening racist forces. It shows that the ANC, a bourgeois nationalist organization, is incapable of leading a consistent struggle for the total destruction of the apartheid regime, and the liberation of the Black people. A working class party is necessary.

The USSR. Faced with uprisings from workers and oppressed peoples on all sides, Gorbachev has announced that he plans to move rapidly to make private ownership of the means of production legal in the USSR. He aims to unify the tendencies in the USSR toward the private accumulation of wealth at the expense of general poverty and misery. Workers must oppose this move. Workers in the USSR need to form their own workers party, their own workers government, fight for total workers control of the planned economy, and for revising the planned economy in the interests of working people.

The Socialist Workers Party, the largest group in the United States that has been associated with Trotskyism and the Fourth International, has just broken with the United Secretariat, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International, according to *International Viewpoint* and *Socialist Action*. No one, at this point, has published a statement by the SWP on this.

Socialist Action, now the largest group in the United States openly associated with Trotskyism and with one of tendencies of the Fourth International (the United Secretariat), held its fourth national convention and a "Rally in Defense of Socialism and Democracy" in San Francisco in July. 250 people attended, including Esteban Volkov, Leon Trotsky's grandson. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sent greetings to this rally, but Socialist Action has not acknowledged receipt of them or published them.

Spark, a Trotskyist group, associated with the Internationalist Communist Union, held its annual summer festival in Detroit in August. Many workers from the Detroit area attended the festival, there were literature tables, and a very interesting discussion on the auto contract and the war on Iraq. One of the speakers urged workers to say no to concessions and no to going to the Middle East. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit had a booth and distributed copies of an article by Trotsky on socialism in the United States and copies of *The Fourth International* with resolutions of the 12th World Congress of our international tendency of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

Shanta Driver, a candidate for Detroit School Board, associated with the Revolutionary Workers League, a Trotskyist group, received 188 votes in the recent elections. ■

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