

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 254 • February 18, 1991 • 15 cents • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

# Nuking Iraqis won't save U.S. lives!

European publications have been saying for many days that sections of the U.S. ruling class are pushing for dropping nuclear bombs on Iraq. Now this truth is starting to come out in American publications, too. The *Detroit Free Press* included these lines on February 12:

“If we are going to send our ground troops into a meat grinder, we should use whatever weapon we have to. The politics of it is secondary as far as I'm concerned.” Representative Dan Burton, Republican, Indiana, advocating the use of tactical nuclear weapons against Iraqi forces.”

They know that many workers have sons, daughters, relatives and friends that have been forced to join the army because they could not find jobs here, and that workers are naturally concerned about them. So they are trying to get workers to go along with dropping nuclear bombs on the Iraqis with the argument that this is going to save U.S. lives.

Workers must not be taken in by their lies!

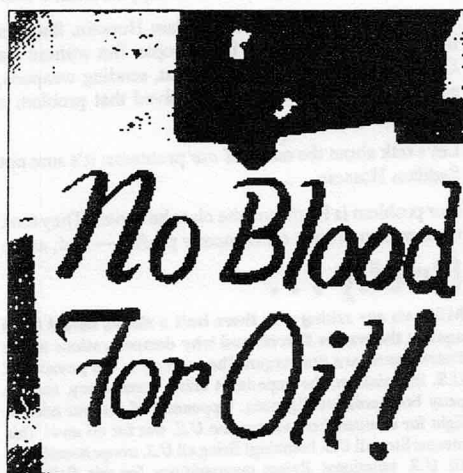
Nuking Iraqis will *not* save U.S. lives!

It is impossible to drop nuclear bombs in the region without fallout that will affect U.S. troops. Vietnam veterans and their children are still suffering from the U.S.'s use of “Agent Orange” in Vietnam, and the U.S. government just *cut* benefits for Vietnam vets.

More, the peoples of the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere, will never forget or forgive such an atrocity. They will retaliate against anything and everything connected with the U.S. in any and every way possible. An Iraqi woman in Baghdad whose house was bombed by U.S. forces, was quoted as saying: “If I find a U.S. pilot, I will cut him to pieces.” Obviously, rich politicians, journalists, and military men will be in a position to take measures to protect themselves from retaliation. Working class soldiers and their families and friends in the U.S. will not.

Finally, if and when the U.S. does succeed in gaining control of the oil fields in the Kuwaiti region and other regions, the U.S. working class will be forced to pay the price to rebuild what the U.S. has destroyed and to maintain an occupying army.

The U.S. banks and corporations that want to gain control of the oil fields so that they can maximize their profits and enrich themselves at



the expense of the poverty, misery, sickness and death of the masses of people, will want to rebuild all the facilities necessary for extracting, processing and distributing oil. They will have to have a large army to defend their facilities against the masses of angry people in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, etc.

The U.S. working class will be forced to pay the  
(Continued on back page, first column)

**Stop the U.S. war  
for oil now!**

**Demonstrate**

**Thursday, February 21, 4:30**

(Meet: Detroit Institute of the Arts, Woodward, 1 block north of Warren.)

March to: Wayne State University Gullen Mall.

Rally: 6 p.m., Wayne State University Student Center Ballroom)

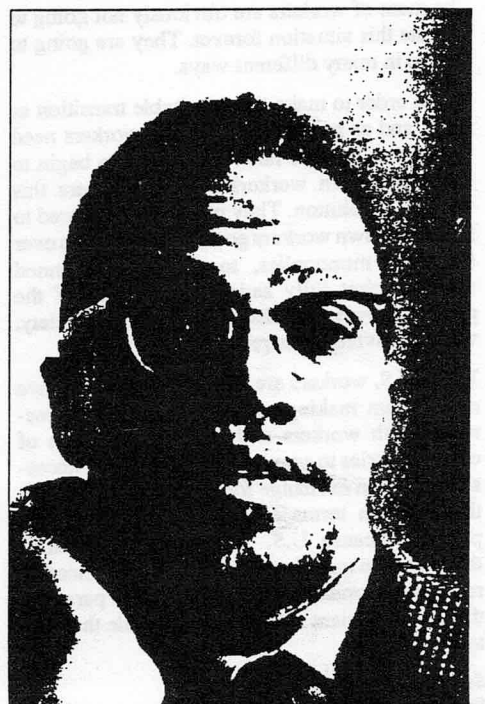
(Part of an international day of action against the war for: Stop the war! Bring the troops home now!

## February 21: Homage to Malcolm X

February 21, 1991, marks the 26th year that has passed since Malcolm X was assassinated. Malcolm X waged an irreconcilable struggle for the liberation of the Black people in the United States. He opposed any form of support to the Republican and Democratic parties which he saw as parties of the oppressors. And he fought for Black people in the United States to solidarize themselves with the struggles of oppressed peoples throughout the world. His quest for truth and his selfless devotion to his people were and always will be an inspiration. His insight and his wit, embodied in his speeches and writings, were and always will be a source of strength.

Homage to Malcolm X!

For the liberation of the Black people and all oppressed peoples!! ■



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(Continued from front page)

price for this as they are already being forced to pay the price for the war.

Thousands of workers are being laid-off; they are not getting unemployment compensation checks on time; auto bosses are talking about renegotiating contracts; those that remain on the job are being forced to work harder and harder; all sorts of programs are being cut including aid to pregnant women, children, disabled children and adults, Vietnam veterans ... There is already talk of a special tax to pay for the U.S. profiteers' war for oil, and the war has just begun. What next?

The only way that workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. can protect the lives of their relatives and friends that have been forced and duped into the U.S. army, the only way that they can protect their lives at home, is to make an all out fight to stop the U.S.'s war for oil now!

Stop all U.S. bombing now!  
Bring all U.S. troops home now!  
Stop all U.S. sanctions now!

The UAW and other unions took a position against offensive military action against Iraq at this time, then, when the bosses actually started the war, they capitulated, and went along.

Workers must not accept this. Workers need to fight for the UAW and all unions to organize meetings, demonstrations, strikes, a general strike, to stop the U.S. bosses' war for oil now!

Workers also need to begin to build a workers party to prepare the workers revolution which is coming and which is inevitable.

The fact that the giant monopoly banks and enterprises that totally dominate the U.S. economy, are prepared to go to such lengths — dropping nuclear bombs! — in order to gain control of the oil fields and maximize their profits, shows that these same monopoly banks and enterprises no longer have anything to offer the people. They are totally bankrupt.

The U.S. "entrepreneurs," who once brought the world the most advanced forms of heat, light, transportation, housing, and mass-produced products for the home, that lightened the workload of the laborer and his family, now bring the world the most advanced forms of mass destruction, sickness, suffering, and death. The same "entrepreneurs" that once brought workers of all races and nationalities together to work together, side-by-side, in giant factories, where age-old suspicions, prejudices and hostilities stemming from different origins began melt away, at least to a certain extent, now promote the worst doctrines of racial superiority and hostility. U.S. citizens constitute some superior life form; Iraqi citizens constitute some form of life so low, that they don't even deserve to be spared a nuclear holocaust (like the Japanese, the last victims of U.S. nuclear bombs).

The mass of workers are obviously not going to tolerate this situation forever. They are going to rise up in many different ways.

But in order to make this inevitable transition as quick and as painless as possible, workers need to begin to prepare now. They need to begin to build their own workers party to prepare this workers revolution. They need to be prepared to form their own workers government, to take over the giant monopolies, to develop a planned economy that fully satisfies the needs of the people. A truly socialist and communist society, with no poverty or oppression of any kind.

When U.S. workers are in power, they will have no problem making mutually beneficial agreements with workers and oppressed peoples of other countries to acquire oil and any other necessary items, in exchange for products produced in the U.S., on terms equally beneficial to both parties. Because U.S. workers work, because they produce useful products, they won't need to rob other peoples at gunpoint, like the parasites that own the giant monopolies that rule the U.S. today.

Stop the U.S. war for oil now!  
Stop all U.S. bombing!  
Bring all U.S. troops home now! ■

## Ukrainian coal miners, Lithuanian people: against the privileged bureaucracy

Ukrainian coal miners are threatening to strike for higher wages and better working conditions against the privileged bureaucracy in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR). At the same time, the Lithuanian people have voted overwhelmingly for independence, once again, in opposition to the privileged Russian bureaucracy within the USSR.

These struggles are steps toward *socialism* and *communism*, that is, toward a classless society, in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no

### "Our war is here at home"

*We are reprinting an article from a bulletin published by Spark, a Trotskyist group active at the Ford Rouge plant and other plants in Detroit. As readers will see, Spark is working to organize workers against the U.S.'s war; it argues that the U.S.'s war is against the MATERIAL, CLASS INTERESTS of the working class.*

*We urge all workers and all Trotskyists to support this effort on the part of Spark at the Ford Rouge plant and other plants in the Detroit area. We also think that it is necessary to fight for:*

1. A united front to: Stop the U.S. war for oil now! Stop all U.S. bombing now! Bring all U.S. troops home now! Stop all U.S. sanctions now!

2. A workers party to prepare the workers revolution in which the workers will establish their own workers government, takeover the monopolies, and develop a planned economy that fully satisfies the needs of the people. — M.G. ■

### "We didn't want this war in the Gulf and we didn't decide on it either"

Before January 16, the majority of people in this country did not want to go to war. All the polls showed it. Among those of us who work for a living, the opposition was much higher.

But Bush went to war, anyway. The decision to go to war was not made democratically. The capitalist class, those who control the corporations and banks, decided the question for us.

So, now, here we are, in a war we didn't want, in a war we never would have gone to if it had been up to us.

And there are all the politicians — who don't send their sons to war — telling us we must support Bush's war.

We are told the problem is Saddam Hussein. Saddam may be a problem for the Iraqi people. But without the U.S. interfering in the Middle East, sending weapons, money, etc., they would have solved that problem a long time ago.

Let's talk about the cause of our problems: it's sure not Saddam Hussein.

Our problem is Bush, and the class he serves. They took us to war to protect oil company profits — and, at the

### Briefly . . .

Militants are asking why there isn't a single, united front against the war in Detroit and why demonstrations in the Detroit area are not larger. The problem is the pressure of U.S. imperialism, the imperialist union bureaucracy, and the petty bourgeois intelligentsia. Opponents of the war need to fight for a united front to stop the U.S. war for oil now! This means: Stop all U.S. bombing! Bring all U.S. troops home! Stop all U.S. sanctions! Reject preconditions for this fight like condemning the Iraqi presence in the Kuwaiti oil region or demanding a place for the U.S. in negotiations concerning the oilfields. Reject vague slogans like "Stop the war" or "End all occupations" as if the U.S. and Iraq are equally responsible. These are the things standing in the way of a unified, large struggle.

The Revolutionary Communist Workers Organization, a Trotskyist group, showed "Children of Fire," a documentary film on the Palestinian uprising, "the intifada," focusing on the role of children. The film was excellent and the discussion was very interesting and lively. Participants debated whether they should use traditional methods or methods like those of the intifada to fight U.S. banks and corporations; whether the

bottom, no want and no suffering of any kind.

It is impossible to achieve such a society without improving the working and living conditions of the workers, without allowing the people of Lithuania to determine their own future, and without crushing the privileged bureaucracy within the USSR that is standing in the way of this struggle, that is preparing to sell all the property in the USSR that belongs to the people to Western bankers and businessmen or to themselves. — M.G. ■

same time, the profits of every corporation which drains wealth from countries throughout the underdeveloped world. They took us to war, so that U.S. corporations could go on dominating the world's economy.

Our problem is the class basis of this war. Those who benefit from this war come from the wealthy class which owns the corporations. Those who will die are the same young working people who went into the army because American capitalism couldn't provide decent jobs here.

### We are in a war right here at home!

A new recession is hitting us. Which means more unemployment. It was already too high — most of those young men and women who volunteered for the army went because they couldn't find a decent job. Now, with this recession, there will be even fewer jobs.

The capitalists are the ones, with their never-ending drive to increase profits, who cause recessions. But we are the ones who are supposed to pay — through more speed-up and cuts in our standard of living — so they can keep on making profit.

We are already paying for their savings and loan crisis — estimates now stand at 500 billion dollars, and still mounting. We are also paying for their 1987 stock market crash, through higher interest rates and increased inflation. We are now beginning to pay for their banking crisis and their real estate speculation crisis.

Now, they will use their war in the Gulf to put a bigger squeeze on us.

We are at war today. The people attacking us are the same ones who benefit from the war in the Gulf — the U.S. capitalist class which profits from our labor and from the labor of working people around the world. They send us to die for them in the Gulf, while they declare war on us here at home.

We should be fighting against them — to make them stop their war; to defend our standard of living; to have a better life. It's all part of the same fight.

If we do fight, we will have allies around the world. People who want to free themselves from the threat of a U.S. war on their territory." *Spark*, February 4, 1991.

revolution in the U.S. should be a popular revolution, or a working class and socialist revolution. For further information, call 313-584-8925.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 17 copies of *Truth* and 1 copy of *The Fourth International* at the Ford Rouge plant and to various contacts. We held a meeting where a comrade gave a report on his recent trip to Europe, including information on the struggle against the war, our tendency's executive committee meeting, and other activities. Supporters of Spark, the RCWO, SA, and others participated. Discussion focused on the changes in the international situation with the upsurge in the colonial revolution, in the USSR, and the crisis of U.S. imperialism and of Stalinism, and on the tasks of Trotskyists. **Declarations of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International).** "Down with the oil thieves' imperialist Aggression!" "Freedom for the Baltic Republics." Available from *Truth*. 10 cents.

**Marxist study group.** Mondays. 6 p.m. Call 584-6556 for exact location.

**Spark meeting,** Sunday, February 24, 5 p.m., Pullman Hall, 4605 Cass Ave., Detroit.

## TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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Supplement • February 25, 1991 • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

# War for oil hurts workers! Bring the troops home now!

The “ground war” between U.S. and Iraqi forces has begun.

It is impossible to say at this moment which side will win the first battle in this war.

One thing is certain, no matter who wins the first battle, or the second, or the third, the U.S. is destined to *lose*, sooner or later.

U.S. bankers, businessmen, politicians, and military men, are fighting for oil. They want the oil in the Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil fields so that they can use it to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of people.

Workers — in and out of uniform — are paying for their war — with their physical and mental health, with their lives, with job cuts, no unemployment compensation checks, speed-up, cuts in benefits for Vietnam veterans, unemployed workers, pregnant women, children, disabled children and adults, seniors ...

Sooner or later, no matter how much lying there may be, on the part of the government, the media, the so-called trade union leaders, or the churches, the masses of working people in the U.S. are going to realize this. They are going to be all the more angry because they have been lied to.

Working men and women, of all races and nationalities, are going to form their own workers political party. There is going to be a workers revolution. Workers are going to establish their own government, they are going to takeover the giant monopolies that totally dominate the economy, they are going to develop a fully planned economy that fully satisfies the needs of the people. They are going to begin to build a truly classless, socialist, communist society, in which there is no poverty or oppression of any kind.

And they are going to begin to use the knowledge, the man-power and the resources in the U.S. to help the workers and oppressed peoples of Iraq and other countries rebuild what has been ravaged and destroyed by U.S. imperialists.

We urge all working people who see the workers party and the workers revolution that are coming, who see their in-

evitable victory, to enter into a common struggle to build this party and bring about this transition, as quickly and painlessly as is possible.

We urge all working people and their organizations to enter into a common fight to stop the U.S.'s war for oil now!

Bring the troops home now!

Self-determination for peoples of the Middle East!

For meetings, demonstrations, strikes, a general strike, to win these demands!

It is impossible unite workers of all races and nationalities against their common enemies — the rich bankers, businessmen, and politicians — if one race or nationality is allowed to rob from or dictate to another, as the U.S. is now attempting to rob from and dictate to the peoples of the Middle East.

No blood for oil!

Bring the troops home now!

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

Supporter of the International League  
(for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)