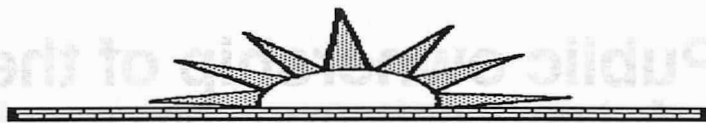


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**NEW LIFE**



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A SOCIALIST BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

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# Public ownership of the newspaper industry!

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# Public ownership of the newspaper industry!

Hundreds of workers in the Detroit area and throughout the United States are actively involved in building support for the Detroit newspaper workers and their strike.

They've canceled their subscriptions to the scab paper, they are boycotting firms that continue to advertise in the scab paper, and they are joining the picketlines. Hundreds continue to do this, especially Saturday night. They picket, build barricades, block scab trucks, and resist and fight the police when the police try to break up the picket lines. Many stay all night, until there are no longer enough people to stop the scab trucks, until they are outnumbered by the police, and then watch the sun come up.

Many of the most experienced and far-sighted are fighting for mass defiance of the injunction against picketing at the essential Sterling Heights plant, for mass picketing (10,000 in Sterling Heights; 10,000 at the Riverfront), and for a one-day national strike in solidarity with the newspaper workers and their strike. More petitions and leaflets calling for a tri-country general strike and/or a nationwide general strike are beginning to circulate.

Newspaper workers are also organizing "flying pickets." Someone passes the word; 100-200 pickets show up at a certain sight, stop the scabs, and disperse before the police can catch up with them.

Those of us who publish *New Life* are totally devoted to and involved in this struggle. We are doing everything that we can to help the newspaper workers win this strike, and we are urging others to do the same. If the newspaper workers win this strike, it's going to be a great victory for all working people. It's going to encourage others to take on these giant corporations and open up a whole new period of struggle and progress. If they lose, it's going to be a setback for all of us.

This is why we think it is so important for everyone to do everything that he or she can do to help win.

At the same time, we have to say frankly that even if the newspaper workers do win this strike, it's not going to solve the fundamental problem facing them and all working people.

As long as a small group of people — whether it's creeps like Frank Vega or some-

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**“As long as a small group of people — whether it's creeps like Frank Vega or somebody else — legally own the newspaper industry, newspaper workers and their families will never be safe.”**

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body else — legally own the newspaper industry, newspaper workers and their families will never be safe. It will always be possible for the legal owners to start making unreasonable demands, try to force the workers out on strike, replace them, shut-down a paper, or do whatever they want to do to enrich themselves. Obviously, building strong unions can make it more difficult for the owners to hurt the workers, but it can't stop it all together.

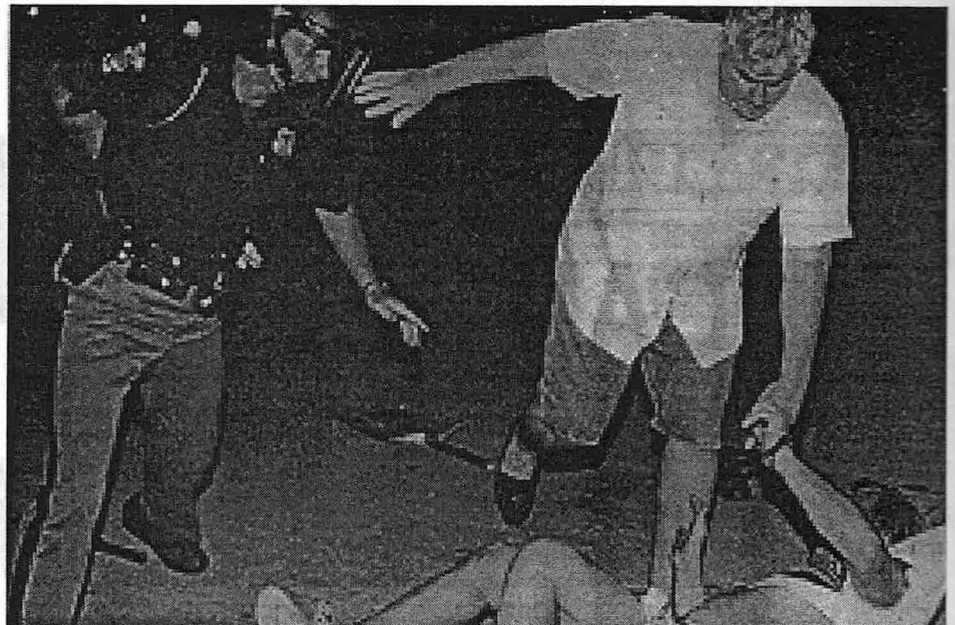
The only way to begin to totally solve these problems — insure that newspaper workers have decent jobs and readers have a decent publication — is to fight for public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry by law.

If the newspaper industry were publicly owned and run by unionized workers and their democratically elected representatives, workers would have more of an opportunity to develop their abilities and readers would be better served. The owners and leading editors have become nothing but parasites, there for the sole purpose of making sure that the papers continue to serve the rich minority, not the working majority.

Naturally the rich owners will complain that public ownership and union control will violate their rights; they will say that it will never work and will point to the old USSR where there is still public ownership of major industries.

But it's important to remember that the newspaper industry is the product of the labor of millions of workers; whatever contribution current-day owners may have made has been small, if any. When there is a conflict between the rights and needs of a small number of property holders, and the rights and needs of the working majority, it's the rights and needs of the working majority that have to come first.

The media tries to convince us that the problems in the old USSR are a consequence of public ownership; this isn't true. The problems are a consequence of poverty and of the continued existence of a privileged bureaucracy that has tried to take all the benefits of public ownership for itself. This is what



**Sterling Heights police lieutenant in street clothes kicks striking worker.**

working people in the old USSR are rising up against, not against public ownership per se. Of course, U.S. businessmen are trying to take advantage of this situation, buy up Russian industry, and use it to make money for themselves. But workers in the old USSR are starting to see through this, too.

Would public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry mean socialism or socialist revolution?

No, but public ownership and union control would be a *step* toward socialism.

In order to build a fully socialist society in which each worker has what he or she needs, millions of workers are going to have to rise up, build a workers' government based on an independent mass mobilization of the workers and oppressed in arms, take over the banks, basic industry, transportation, etc., and start to run them in the interests of the working majority.

A fight for public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry can be a step in this direction, a contribution to this struggle.

Some workers may oppose the fight for public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry because it could be a step toward socialism.

This is a serious mistake. Workers have to learn to figure out what is best for the working class and fight for it, no matter where it leads, and not allow preconceived notions and prejudices about capitalism and socialism, to cloud their thinking and paralyze their actions, on behalf of their own class.

What can workers do to advance the fight for public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry today?

Do everything possible to win the newspaper workers' strike — mass defiance of the unjust injunctions; mass picketing; a national solidarity strike. Join the labor party movement; push for the labor party movement to fight for public ownership and union control. Run independent labor candidates to popularize these ideas.

This is the road forward for the working class. This is the way to build a society in which working people will be comfortable. — M. Guttschall □

**Join the striking workers and their supporters on the picket lines. For more information call New Life at 313-584-6556.**

## Police violence and corruption from L.A. to Philadelphia: what is the solution?

In the last weeks, one incident after another of police violence and corruption has been revealed.

10,000 people marched in Philadelphia in opposition to the unjust conviction of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the state's attempt to execute him. Then the U.S. government announced a federal investigation into the Philadelphia police department, which has a history of framing and imprisoning dozens, if not hundreds, of innocent people, most of them Black and relatively poor. Then O.J. Simpson's lawyers brought forward evidence that Mark Fuhrman, the policeman in charge of the investigation of the Nicole Brown Simpson/Ron Goldman murders, also has a history of hostility to Black people and women, and a history of arresting, beating, and framing innocent people. Now police throughout Southeast Michigan are arresting, beating, and imprisoning striking newspaper workers, while corporate criminals, murders, rapists, and wife-beaters go free.

What can be done about this situation? Obviously, it's necessary to investigate incidences of police violence and corruption, find all the individuals responsible, remove them, and punish them.

But this doesn't go far enough. If you want to get rid of a cancer, you have to go to the origins of the cancer itself.

Some things that obviously contribute to police violence and corruption are racism and anti-woman and anti-labor propaganda and prejudices. Many police and judicial officials are obviously filled with hate for peoples of color, women, trade unionists, etc.

There are two more problems: one is the undemocratic police/judicial system itself; the other is the economic system.

As long as you have a small number of people in the society with weapons, and the education, training, and authority to use them, you are going to have police violence and corruption. The truth is, the police and other armed forces tend to draw people who like to push other people around. We need to abolish the police and other armed forces that have all been formed on this basis, and

replace them with union defense guards and union militias made up of thousands of working men and working women of all ethnic groups. These union defense guards and union militias need to be run in a democratic way — with full, free, and democratic discussion of policies; democratic determination of policies, voting, majority rule; democratic election of leaders; the right to immediately recall leaders. The same thing needs to be done with the judicial system as a whole; we need to abolish it and replace it with a system of democratically elected working class and popular courts. Why should appointed judges and prosecutors who aren't accountable to anyone but the bought-off politicians who appointed them, be allowed to determine the fate of so many people?

And this brings us to the problem of the economic system. We live in a society in which goods are produced, not with the fundamental aim of satisfying the needs of the majority, but with the aim of selling the goods and making a profit. Anything that is profitable for the small number of rich property-holders flourishes; anything that isn't is under constant attack. Police violence and corruption against trade unionists, women, peoples of color, is profitable. It keeps the rich property holders — largely white nien — on top, and everyone else on the bottom.

So this is another thing that needs to be changed. As long as we live in a capitalist society, divided into classes, with one class that owns and controls everything, and another class that has to work for the first class in order to be able to eat, there is going to be violence and corruption against the people on the bottom. The people on the top can't keep the people on the bottom down without violence and corruption. In fact, one of the reasons that police violence and corruption seems to be increasing is that the people on the bottom are becoming more and more discontent, and the people on the top are becoming more and more desperate.

Let's fight the symptoms: police brutality, violence, corruption. Let's also fight the disease: an undemocratic class society. — M.G. □



## How can workers fight for their interests in the 1996 elections?

Different political tendencies in the labor movement are already talking about their plans for the 1996 elections.

It is already clear that the majority of the leadership of the labor movement is planning to support Clinton.

No one, absolutely no one, says that Clinton is a wonderful candidate and that he has done all sorts of things in the interests of the labor movement. But they do say that workers should campaign and vote for Clinton because if they don't, then a Republican will be elected and this will hurt the workers.

From this point of view, many labor leaders are opposed to Jesse Jackson running as an independent. They say he will take votes away from Clinton. Many also oppose forming a labor party, even if it doesn't run candidates, because, they say, this will detract from building support for the Democratic Party and its candidates.

There are a number of problems with this perspective.

First, what is most essential for the fate of the working class and the labor movement is not *who* is in the White House. What is most essential for the fate of the working class and the labor movement is the extent to which the working class, the labor movement, is mobilized to defend and fight for its own interests *regardless* of who is in the White House.

From this point of view, whatever benefits the working class might get from supporting Clinton would be outweighed by the negatives. Even if Clinton wins, even if Clinton vetoes a few bills that a Republican president might sign, this is not going to make up for the fact that campaigning for Clinton is going to nourish illusions in the working class, in the labor movement, that workers can rely on upper class politicians to fight for their interests, that they don't have to be actively involved, fighting, etc. In this sense, it is going to discourage active involvement in the labor movement on a daily basis; it's going to encourage passivity.

Second, if the majority of the leadership of the labor movement throws itself into campaigning for Clinton and other Democratic Party candidates, it is going to *divide* the labor movement.

The truth is the majority of working people in this country want a third party and a third party candidate for president. They oppose both Republicans and Democrats. By going against what the majority of working people in the U.S. want, the leadership of the labor movement is going to split the labor movement, and isolate the labor movement from the population as a whole. Instead of building the labor movement, they are going to undermine the labor movement.

Ross Perot can see some of the things that the majority of working people want. Why can't the leadership of the labor movement?

The labor movement has to play an independent role in politics. It has to have its own agenda and run its own candidates. It can't keep chasing after whatever politicians the corporations put forward.

At the very least, every labor leader should join Labor Party Advocates, and join in building the convention to found a labor party and adopt a labor agenda in June of 1996.

And the further this convention goes in fighting for labor to put forward its own candidates for office to fight for this agenda, the better off labor will be. — M.G. □

## On the picket line ...

As the newspaper strike in Detroit persists, the police and corporate strikebreakers continue their attacks on striking workers. In Sterling Heights, the police have increased their harassment and attacks on strikers and their supporters using the injunction as the reason.

To avoid these attacks, the Saturday night rallies have been moved to the Riverfront Free Press plant. On September 17th, the strikers and their supporters were taken by surprise by the Detroit police in the early morning hours. The police, who had been hiding in a back road, started facing strikers and supporters, swinging their billy clubs so that the scab trucks could get through.

On the evening of September 23rd, until the early morning hours on the 24th, strikers and supporters who had gathered at the Riverfront, seeing no evidence of paper production occurring, relocated themselves to a distribution center on Clayton on Detroit's west side. Here the strikers and their supporters formed a picketline. Shortly after this, a van pulled up to the entrance of the distribution center. The crowd surrounded the van in hopes of preventing it from entering. The Detroit police pushed the crowd back so the van could reach the gate. During this conflict, two strikers were arrested. The group once again formed a picket line and within minutes more police were dispatched to the center.

It wasn't long after this first clash occurred that a second took place. A semi-truck, delivering papers to the distribution center and being led by police, pushed its way into the picket line. As the truck moved forward, the pickets met it head on. To avoid being crushed by the tires, some pickets climbed onto the grill of the truck. Police pulled people off it, causing them to land on the ground in front of it. People in the crowd realized that they needed something more to halt the advancing truck. In the parking lot, there was an abandoned pick up that they were able to push into the path of the semi. The police, seeing no way for the truck to make it past the picketers, directed the scab truck to back out of the lot.

As the semi-truck, with its shattered windshield, detached turn signals, and leaking tires backed out into the street, a wave of cheers came up from the crowd.—Tim James □

**Do you want ...**

- Unemployment compensation and healthcare for strikers ...
- To outlaw replacing strikers ...
- To outlaw injunctions and police action against pickets ... ?

**Join the labor party movement!**  
**Build a party that fights for workers!**

Building a labor party is an substitute for the struggles that workers are waging today — for contracting subscriptions, boycotting advertisers, building effective picketlines and stopping scabs. But building a labor party will expand and strengthen the struggle.

Next meeting of Labor Party Advocates  
Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m.  
UAW Local 600 Hall  
Dix and Wyoming

Labor Party Advocates • Box 4492A, Detroit, MI 48244-0924 • 313-730-4538



# The socialist future - hope for all humanity

Capitalism has outlived itself as a world system. It has ceased to fulfill its essential function, the raising of the level of human power and human wealth. Humanity cannot remain stagnant at the level which it has reached. Only a powerful increase in productive force and a sound, planned, that is, socialist organization of production and distribution can assure humanity — all humanity — a decent standard of life and at the same time give it the precious feeling of freedom with respect to its own economy. Freedom in two senses — first of all, man will no longer be compelled to devote the greater part of his life to physical toil. Second, he will no longer be dependent on the laws of the market, that is, on the blind and obscure forces which work behind his back. He will build his economy freely, according to plan, with compass in hand. This time it is a question of subjecting the anatomy of society to the X-ray through and through, of disclosing all its secrets and subjecting all its functions to the reason and the will of collective humanity. In this sense, Socialism must become a new step in the historical advance of mankind. Before our ancestor, who first armed himself with a stone ax, the whole of nature represented a conspiracy of secret and hostile forces. Since then, the natural sciences hand in hand with practical technology have illuminated nature down to its most secret depths. By means of electrical energy, the physicist passes judgment on the nucleus of the atom. The hour is not far when science will easily solve the task of the alchemists, and turn manure into gold and gold into manure. Where the demons and furies of nature once raged, now reigns ever more courageously the industrious will of man.

## Nature

But while he wrestled victoriously with nature, man built up his relations to other men blindly, almost like the bee or the ant. Slowly and very haltingly he approached the problems of human society. The Reformation represented the first victory of bourgeois individualism and rationalism in a domain which had been ruled by dead tradition. From the Church critical thought went on to the State. Born in the struggle with absolutism and the Medieval estates, the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people and of the rights of man and the citizen grew stronger. Thus arose the system of parlia-



Trotsky and young friends.

mentarism. Critical thought penetrated into the domain of government administration. The political rationalism of democracy was the highest achievement of the revolutionary bourgeoisie.

But between nature and the State stands economic life. Technical science liberated man from the tyranny of the old elements — earth, water, fire, and air — only to subject him to its own tyranny. Men ceased to be a slave to nature only to become a slave to the machine, and, still worse, a slave to supply and demand. The present world crisis testifies in especially tragic fashion how man, who dives to the bottom of the ocean, who rises up to the stratosphere, who converses, on invisible waves with the Antipodes, how this proud and daring ruler of nature remains a slave to the blind forces of his own economy. The historical task of our epoch consists in replacing the uncontrolled play of the market by rational planning, in disciplining the forces of production, compelling them to work together in harmony and obediently serve the needs of mankind. Only on this new social basis will man be able to stretch his weary limbs and — every man and every woman, not only a selected few — become a citizen with full power in the realm of thought.

## Humanity today

But this is not yet the end of the road. No, it is only the beginning. Man calls himself

the crown of creation. He has a certain right to that claim. But who has asserted that present-day man is the last and highest representative of the species *Homo sapiens*? No, physically as well as spiritually he is very far from perfection, prematurely born biologically, with feeble thought, and has not produced any new organic equilibrium.

It is true that humanity has more than once brought forth giants of thought and action who tower over their contemporaries like summits in a chain of mountains. The human race has a right to be proud of its Aristotle, Shakespeare, Darwin, Beethoven, Goethe, Marx, Edison, and Lenin. But why are they so rare? Above all, because almost without exception, they came out of the upper and middle classes. Apart from rare exceptions, the sparks of genius in the suppressed depths of the people are choked before they can burst into flame. But also because the processes of creating, developing, and educating a human being have been and remain essentially a matter of chance, not illuminated by theory and practice, not subjected to consciousness and will.

Anthropology, biology, physiology, and psychology have accumulated mountains of material to raise up before mankind in their full scope the tasks of perfecting and developing body and spirit. Psychoanalysis, with the inspired hand of Sigmund Freud, has lifted the cover of the well which is poetically called the "soul." And what has been revealed? Our conscious thought is only a small part of the work of the dark psychic forces. Learned divers descend to the bottom of the ocean and there take photographs of mysterious fishes. Human thought, descending to the bottom of its own psychic sources, must shed light on the most mysterious driving forces of the soul and subject them to reason and to will.

Once he has done with the anarchic forces of his own society man will set to work on himself, in the pestle and the retort of the chemist. For the first time mankind will regard itself as raw material, or at best as a physical and psychic semi-finished product. Socialism will mean a leap from the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom in this sense also, that the man of today, with all his contradictions and lack-of harmony, will open the road for a new and happier race.

— Leon Trotsky □

# Maintain the integrity of Bosnia!

On Saturday, September 16, 1995, 20,000 people from all over the United States gathered in New York City to demonstrate against the United Nations' interference in Bosnia. The march through the streets of Manhattan was spirited and militant. The majority of the participants were Muslim, many of Arabic origin. Mosques from all over the country were mobilized to protest the U.N.'s criminal policies which have cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of their Muslim brothers and sisters in Bosnia.

The demands of the marchers and the speakers were progressive. Most marchers carried signs which demanded the arms embargo be lifted and that the Bosnian people be allowed to defend themselves. Some noted the U.N. had betrayed the Bosnians by confiscating their arms while allowing the Serbs to retain theirs. Others spoke to Serbian war crimes – especially the rape and torture of Bosnian women – declaring that these crimes must be punished.

Though the crowd was peaceful – with prayers before the march began – the route of the march was lined with police. This gave the impression that the marchers – many of whom were women and children – were considered dangerous. Indeed, the television coverage of the march portrayed the marchers as angry and potentially violent, emphasizing the heavy police presence. This portrayal was typical of the racist image U.S. media presents of Islamic peoples, particularly Arabs. It is an obvious attempt by the bourgeoisie to invalidate the demands of Arabic people in the eyes of the majority of Americans.

Even so, the legitimacy of the demand that Bosnia be free from the manipulation and betrayal of the United States and the United Nations cannot be denied. The thousands of people who gathered for the march on the U.N. know that and have been strengthened in their convictions. Still, it will require an outcry from many more people in the U.S. to stop the U.S. and U.N. policies which have encouraged the genocide in Bosnia. The treachery of the U.S. "peace negotiators" is obvious – they promise the fascist Serbs control of land they've stolen just when the Bosnian Army has finally begun to take some of it back. Still very few socialists in the U.S. have taken a stand against them. This amounts to complicity with U.S. attempts to put down yet another

movement for independence by an oppressed people. This complicity with U.S. imperialism against people's right to self-determination will impede the world-wide struggle for socialism. It damages the credibility of socialism among the working class, and therefore adds more twists and turns to its path.



## No to the division of Bosnia! Lift the arms embargo against Bosnia!

Neither the chetniks' fascist genocide, nor the United Nations' hypocritical diplomacy have succeeded in stopping the resistance of the Bosnian people, whose just cause is winning more and more support throughout the world.

Thus the United States government is trying to control the situation and, once again in the name of peace, has forced Bosnians to sign an agreement that includes the bases for the division of Bosnia as a solution to the war in the Balkans.

The bombs that NATO has been dropping in the last days have been aimed at imposing this solution, which seeks to consecrate the virtual extinction of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reality has shown that neither the United Nations nor NATO are present to hold back the fascists, nor to help the Bosnians get back their territory and their independence.

New Life is working to change this situation. We organized a forum in solidarity with Bosnia together with "Against the Current" and the Bosnian Task Force. The forum was small, but everyone there saw it as a step toward building more support for Bosnia. – Kim Morgan ☐

Peace in the Balkans will be possible only when the Bosnian people's resistance is joined by international solidarity; this means demanding the lifting of the embargo on arms so that the Bosnian people can exercise their legitimate right to self-defense.

Our organization, which has been waging a sustained campaign of solidarity and has sent brigades of volunteers to Bosnia, sends its salute to the September 16th demonstration at the United Nations in New York. This demonstration is an important initiative that must be supported and which will certainly represent a new step forward in the campaign of world solidarity with Bosnia.

International Secretariat  
International Workers Unity  
(Fourth International)  
Barcelona, Spain ☐



# New Life Conference - a step forward

New Life held its first conference during the week of September 23. The conference was spread over 2 days because members attended the Solidarity Saturday actions supporting striking Detroit newspaper workers.

The Conference began with a report and discussion on "The Situation and Tasks facing revolutionary socialists in the Midwest."

The report noted that U.S. capitalism no longer has anything to offer workers and the vast majority of Americans. It noted that the working class and popular movements are growing in the U.S. and they are part of growing working class and popular movements around the world.

In response to the growing workers' movement, alternatives to the traditional leaderships are developing. Labor Party Advocates, the Sweeney-Trumka faction in the AFL-CIO, the Decatur War Zone Conference, all show the powerful pressure from the ranks on the leaderships in the unions.

However, the report underlined "... none of these alternatives is a completely adequate alternative, that is, adequate to the tasks that the working class has to take up." For example, no one is fighting for independent labor candidates for president and other offices in the 1996 elections.

The report focused on some of key working class and popular struggles today — the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, the struggle to free Mumia, the 1996 convention of Labor Party Advocates.

The Detroit newspaper workers' strike is the most important working class action in Detroit in over 20 years. New Life members have focused their energies on being involved in many aspects of the strike. Mass defiance of the court-imposed injunction is the surest and quickest way to make progress in the strike. We also support the many

calls, leaflets, etc., for a one-day work stoppage in support of the strike.

The movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal has been another important struggle. Delaying the execution was a partial victory, but also part of a maneuver to deflect the growing support from workers and unions. We have to make sure that the support for Mumia grows in the working class in order to stop any more plans of execution and to free him.

The fight to build Labor Party Advocates as the organizing committee for a labor party, for the first step in the political independence of the U.S. working class from the rich, concentrates many of the problems and solutions of the current level of struggle.

New Life decided to make a special effort to recruit striking workers, their unions, and young people to Labor Party Advocates as one of the best ways to ensure a good convention to found the labor party next year.

The conference also focused on some key problems in building New Life as a socialist tendency of the labor party movement.

First, the journal New Life needs to be more focused on socialism.

Second, New Life needs to spur the production of the English edition of International Correspondence, the journal of International Workers Unity. This new organization is a tendency of the Fourth International founded last April that brings together revolutionary socialists committed to Trotskyism from around the world.

Reproduced here are some sections of the Final Resolution of the conference.

The next New Life conference is scheduled for January, 1996. If you are interested in New Life, please contact us at the address or phone number below. — Fred Russo ☐

## From the final resolution . . .

"More and more workers are turning away from old policies and leaders and turning toward new, more working class policies; new more working class leaders are emerging in this process. . . .

"What we are seeing today are the initial stages in a process that will eventually lead to the revolutionary reorganization of the U.S. working class and the formation of a proletarian revolutionary Marxist leadership."

In order to nourish and encourage these positive developments, revolutionary Marxists need to:

"Be actively involved in the most advanced working class and popular struggles taking place . . . work to see what is going on within these movements; work to see and understand the conflicts taking place between different forces and tendencies within these movements; analyze the origins, development and nature of these conflicts, forces, tendencies; support the most advanced working class policies and leaders against the more backward bourgeois and petty bourgeois policies and leaders; work to bring the most advanced working class elements together; arm them with the most working class policies;

"Develop more agitation and propaganda for a labor party and Labor Party Advocates more directly related to the concerns of these movements; . . .

"At the same time, revolutionary Marxists need to prepare for the future of the movement. . . ." We need to:

"Develop more agitation and propaganda aimed at getting young workers and students involved in the struggles taking place . . ."

"Develop more agitation and propaganda aimed at winning young workers and students to the labor party movement . . ."

"Devote more space in New Life to the fight for socialism . . ." ☐

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New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. New Life is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of New Life. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Eric Gubka, Margaret Guttschall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

# Support the independent labor movement in Belarus!

Workers in Belarus are trying to build unions and a working class party that are independent of the AFL-CIO and independent of the old Communist Parties. They want to bring down the power of the privileged bureaucracy that arose in and around the old Communist Party and establish a workers' democracy in which the majority of working people can democratically decide how they want to develop their society and build a society in which they will be comfortable.

We ask working people in the U.S. to support this struggle. Workers in the U.S. and the old USSR need to work together to build working class unions and parties that are independent of the privileged strata in both countries. When workers in the U.S. and the old USSR manage to overthrow the power of the privileged strata in both countries and get all the power into their own hands, they will be able to build a totally new world. — M.G. □

## No to the IMF's attempt to re-establish Stalinism in Belarus!

### Appeal from SMOT, a free union, and from the Committee for a Workers Party in Belarus, to workers and organizations for human rights throughout the world

On September 12, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is going to decide on the second part of a stand-by credit of \$280 million to the Republic of Belarus.

International capital, through the IMF, is once again demonstrating its anti-human nature, supporting the rebirth of a state with a pro-Stalinist regime in the center of Europe, headed by Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus.

The illegality of the presidential institution is obvious, and defended only by the governing elite. All the legislative acts that brought Lukashenko to power were taken by the Supreme Soviet, which lost its legitimacy some time ago.

History once again confirms that illegality and arbitrary power can only be stopped with struggle. Otherwise, one illegal act will follow another, turning the life of the common people into a reign of misery and injustice.

Today Belarus is a country in which power is in the hands of a person who does not

respect either the laws of the republic, the conventions, or the international declarations ratified by our country.

In a single year of Lukashenko's government, there have been more violations of laws and human rights than there have been for years. In Belarus, the government does not act through the constitution and laws, but through the decrees of the President, who acts only to defend his interests and the interests of those close to him.

Under orders from Lukashenko, in the spring of this year, the army entered into the Parliament, arrested and beat representatives who were on a hunger strike.

Today, under orders from Lukashenko, the authorities are persecuting workers who are asking only for the Labor Laws and the Collective Contracts to be carried out and who are defending their rights.

In August, more than twenty participants in the transport strikes were arrested and held for ten nights in military territory without any investigation or any trial. Thus we are witnesses to the formation of the first concentration camps in Belarus since fascist times.

In a decree dated August 21, Lukashenko prohibited the activity of the free unions in Belarus and the workers' official union in the Minsk Metro, and also suspended the parliamentary immunity of representatives at all levels.

On September 1, the Belarus press published warnings from Lukashenko to the directors of all dailies and periodicals and a threat to repress any criticism of the president.

Now, under direct orders from the presidential administration, the authorities are terminating participants in the union and strike

movements. In Gomel, they are trying to terminate 142 drivers that took part in a strike. They also terminated leaders and activists from the NPO "Integral" factory who organized a meeting in the Presidential Palace. They are terminating Metro workers who took part in the strike.

It is obvious that in this situation credit from the IMF will strengthen the power of this regime and allow for the resurgence of a pro-Stalinist regime.

Today it is clear to all citizens of Belarus that the essence of Lukashenko's power is police arbitrariness and poverty.

We direct ourselves toward workers and organizations that defend human rights in all countries, hoping for support and concrete action. Only together can we struggle against the plans of the IMF and against the attempts to reestablish dictatorships in different countries.

We hope that in addition to the letters of support and telegrams of protest that you will be able to organize meetings at the Russian and Belarus embassies, that there will be protest actions against international capital's representatives and their plans, putting pressure on the IMF representatives in different countries.

Friends, today we hope for your help. Alone, we will not be able to successfully struggle against the IMF and the organizations that represent international capital.

Together we must say:

No to the IMF's plans to reestablish Stalinism in Belarus!

September 2, 1995

Minsk, Belarus □

Send protests to:

Procurador  
general Vasili  
Shovadanou  
International  
Street 24  
Minsk  
Republic of  
Belarus  
220050

