

Berlin, January 30: German Trotskyists call for workers defense of immigrant hostels against Nazi terror attacks.

Labor Unrest Amid Economic Crisis, Fascist Terror

Imperialist New World Disorder

We print below the edited transcript of a speech given by Spartacist Canada editor John Masters to a Vancouver Trotskyist League forum on January 24. Titled "Workers of Europe: Crush the Fascists! Fight for Power!" the forum analyzed the explosion of neo-Nazi terror in the wake of counterrevolution in East Europe and the Soviet Union and described the new rise of working-class struggle which has swept through a number of European countries over the past six months. The meeting was held two days after a powerful labor/minority mobilization routed a threatened fascist rally in downtown Vancouver, and several of the militants who worked to mobilize union contingents to stop the fascists that evening attended and participated in the discussion.

The presentation has been slightly abridged for publication. Versions of the same speech were also given at Trotskyist

League/Ligue trotskyste forums in Toronto on January 16 and Montreal on February 6.

* * *

We all won a big victory here Friday evening. The fascists said they were going to rally at the Art Gallery. But a huge outpouring by labor, by minorities, by students, gays—all decent people—stopped them cold. This was a powerful vindication of the Trotskyist League and the Partisan Defense Committee's call for a mass labor-centered mobilization to sweep the Nazis from the streets. Everyone in this room who was involved in building that mobilization should be damn proud of themselves.

Despite the attempts of various people like the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism to turn the evening into an empty "peace and love" gabfest on the Art Gallery steps, if you looked

(continued on page 11)

Vancouver: 3,000 Drive Off Fascist Skinheads..... 7

Terror Bombing of Iraq, Occupation of Somalia

“Imperialist Butchers: Hands Off the World!”

As the new year opened, first George Bush and then Bill Clinton once again rained death on the people of Iraq. Washington's junior partners in Ottawa were, as usual, quick to salute, with Brian Mulroney offering “unqualified support” for the terror bombing. In response, comrades of the International Communist League (ICL) in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere organized and joined demonstrations to protest the renewed imperialist attacks, along with the continuing racist neocolonial invasion of Somalia.

Demanding “U.S. Hands Off the World!” Spartacus Youth Club (SYC) members opened the new school semester at Columbia University in New York and UC Berkeley in California with spirited rallies. While much of what passes for the left in the U.S. welcomed Clinton's electoral victory, an SYC spokesman at the January 21 Columbia protest nailed the Democrats as a “party of war, from the atom-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the colonial war which slaughtered two million Vietnamese, to the Bay of Pigs.” SYC signs demanded “Down with racist U.S. blockade of Haiti!” after Clinton ordered the navy to keep desperate refugees imprisoned in that police-state hellhole.

The next day at Berkeley's Sproul Plaza, SYC member Karen Lawrence recalled how the beating of Rodney King occurred just days after the Gulf slaughter two years ago. “This is the domestic side of Bush and Clinton's New World Order,” she said, “gunning down blacks in the streets all over the country, just as they rain bombs down in Iraq in order to establish themselves as cops of the world.”

In Toronto, Trotskyist League contingents marched in demonstrations held outside the U.S. consulate on January 18 and again two days later, with banners and signs calling to “Defeat U.S./Canadian Imperialism” and “Defend Iraq Against Imperialist Attack.” A TL spokesman addressed the crowd, calling for working-class struggle against the capitalist system which breeds



Young Spartacus

Spartacus Youth Club rally at Columbia University, January 21.

mass poverty, racism and war. This went against the grain of various pacifists and pseudo-leftists who tried unsuccessfully to drown us out by banging on pots while intoning their “Peace now” mantra.

Three days later, TL comrades joined a demonstration in Montreal called to protest U.S. threats against Cuba and the bombing of Iraq. Calling to defend the Cuban deformed workers state and denouncing the UN sanctions against the Iraqi people, our comrades chanted “Down with imperialist war! For class war!”

At these protests only the TL fought for revolutionary opposition to our “own” ruling class and to the NDP social democrats who serve as their witting agents. Back in 1991 Canada provided thousands of troops to assist Washington's storm of death in the Gulf and today more than 1,000 soldiers are aiding the imperialist recolonization of Somalia. Canada's “peace-loving” façade, promoted by the NDP, helps to provide a “neutral” and “democratic” cover for imperialist terror and plunder.

Pushing the myth of a “humanitarian” imperialism, various rad-libs have supported the call for military intervention in the former Yugoslavia. Those who didn't openly support the invasion of Somalia called for sending “food, not troops.” Together they buy the lie that imperialism can play some kind of “progressive” role in the world today, including the racist notion that it is the “white man's burden” to bring “peace” and “civilization” to Africa.

The capitalist rulers in Ottawa and Washington are deadly enemies of working people and the oppressed, here at home and throughout the world. From coast to coast and throughout the North American continent, comrades of the ICL are fighting to build the kind of revolutionary leadership which can put an end to the barbaric imperialist order and win a socialist future. We say: *Anti-imperialism abroad means class struggle at home! Join us, we have a world to win!* ■

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Toronto Cops Riot Against Anti-Fascist Protesters

Only three days after Nazi skinheads were routed by a mass mobilization of labor and minorities in Vancouver, Toronto police brought out the horses and riot gear to defend another fascist hate rally. On the morning of January 25, Wolfgang Droege and other leaders of the fascist "Heritage Front" were to appear in court to answer Human Rights Code charges brought by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Toronto Native Canadian Centre, who were seeking an injunction to shut down the Front's racist telephone "hotline." Several dozen of the Front's white-supremacist vermin scuttled about under Confederate and Canadian flags, yelling racist slogans in support of their führers.

Opposing them were 500 young anti-fascist demonstrators, among them scores of high school students. Most of these militants were responding to a call by the Anti-Racist Action group (ARA) to "Smash the Nazi Front." ARA was founded last fall by youthful anti-racists looking for real action to stop Droege's band of skinhead psychos, who have targeted Toronto high schools for recruitment to their race-terrorist violence. Twice, ARA-led actions got the drop on "secret" fascist meetings and put the Nazis on the run. At the same time as organizing such militant actions, however, ARA has sought to "develop strategies" against the Nazis jointly with the Boards of Education and school administrations, including in a mid-January rally at Riverdale Collegiate that was endorsed by the Board of Health and school principals among others.

In the cold early morning hours of January 25 the anti-fascists rallied at the provincial legislature. Chanting "Nazis out!", they marched in close formation down University Avenue to the Provincial Court building, where the gaggle of fascist thugs could be seen a hundred yards away across Nathan Phillips Square. With hundreds of determined militants drawn up in front of the courthouse, ARA marshals began proclaiming victory. While the crowd chanted "We're bigger, we're stronger—Run Nazi scum!", ARA leaders declared that the fascists could "come to us if they dared."

Then, without warning, a cop shouted "Go get 'em, boys!" Immediately, eight mounted policemen waiting to one side wheeled around and drove hard into the crowd of anti-fascists. Despite efforts to hold their ranks and resist the cossacks' charge, the outraged demonstrators were no match for the blows of riot batons and trampling hooves. While the mounted thugs-in-blue swung wildly at anyone within range, a second squad of cops escorted the Heritage Front rabble through the melee into the courthouse. Five anti-fascist demonstrators were injured and two arrested. We demand the charges be dropped!

Cops and Courts: Enemies of the Oppressed

American communist leader James P. Cannon once remarked that there's more education at the end of a policeman's



Canadian Jewish News

Cossacks tear into protesters to protect fascists, January 25.

nightstick than in a dozen pamphlets and books. On January 25, many anti-fascist militants got a bruising lesson in exactly whose side the police are on. It's the same lesson that black teenagers get every Saturday night, the same one striking workers learn defending their picket lines against scabs: the cops and courts are not neutral!

Liberal reformers never tire of telling anyone who'll listen that these cops and courts can be turned into allies of the oppressed. They preach that "democratic pressure" can convince the ruling class and its governments (especially its NDP governments, these days) to "do the right thing." Such respectable folk assure us that the state machine can be made to serve and protect the working people, black youth and other victims of racist violence.

But this state exists for one purpose only: to enforce the domination of the capitalist ruling class, the handful of filthy rich, racist parasites who run this country. The capitalist state maintains a monopoly on violence, which it guards jealously and uses against the oppressed. That's why liberal demands for "sensitivity training" for cops, for more minority police, for "accountability," are worse than useless—they're plain suicide.

The cops are the armed fist of the state: in fact, they are the overwhelming source of violence against minorities and working people today. Trevor Kelly, Marcellus François, Presley Leslie in Montreal; Lester Donaldson, Wade Lawson, Luis Vega in Toronto; J.J. Harper in Winnipeg—these are just a few of the black, Latino and Native men murdered by the cops in the last few years. And in every case the courts let their killers walk.

While ordinary liberals argue for ignoring the fascist threat, others, including reformist "socialists" and the organizers of the Klanbusters anti-racist telephone hotline (with whom ARA collaborates) appeal to the capitalist state to "silence" the Nazis. They demand laws to outlaw "hate literature" or to "ban the Klan." But this is a losing game—and a deadly dangerous

(continued on page 6)

Germany: Case Dismissed Against Spartakists Who Tore Down Nazi Flag

BERLIN, February 17—In a trial at the Tiergarten Administrative Court today, the case was dismissed against four supporters of the Spartakist Workers Party of Germany (SpAD) and the Committee for Social Defense (KfsV) who were charged with tearing down an enormous swastika flag at the Pariser Galerie next to the Brandenburg Gate in June 1992. Toralf Endruweit, Spartakist spokesman and former SpAD candidate in the March 1990 DDR (East German) parliamentary elections, declared in a statement to the court: "As the numerous statements of support show, the court has, to put it mildly, gotten heart palpitations."

He continued: "We won't allow this blood-soaked banner to just hang anywhere. We tore it down on 23 June 1992 and burned it. We are proud of that, and will do it again if necessary. We did it in the name of all anti-fascists."

About a hundred demonstrators gathered before the beginning of the trial in front of the entrance to the court, chanting: "Swastika means genocide, destroy the flag everywhere!" and "1, 2, 3, 4—No Nazi flag here! 5, 6, 7, 8—Stop the Nazis with workers power!" Representatives of the Jewish Group of Berlin, the PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism), the SDAJ (German Socialist Young Workers), the KPD/ML (Communist Party of Germany/Marxist-Leninist), as well as the SpAD, spoke in the demonstration organized by the KfsV, in which many anti-fascist youth participated.

At the demonstration, Atiye Eksi said in a moving declaration: "My son Mete Eksi was slain a year ago by racist youths. They have not yet been put on trial. They were set free. But those who on 23 June 1992 destroyed the Nazi flag are to be hauled into court on 17 February 1993. Are we still living in the Third Reich? Has Germany still not overcome that period?" Also today the Berlin prosecutor brought charges against Turkish friends of Mete Eksi for the "crime" of having survived the fascist assault in which he was killed.

The charges against the four Spartakists, Werner Brand, Renate Dahlhaus, Toralf Endruweit and Ronald Krüger, were brought amid a monstrous rise in Nazi terror and racist murders throughout Germany. In Rostock it has now been confirmed for all to see that the police made a pact with the Nazi gangs



Spartakist

We ripped down Nazi flag, and we'd do it again.

who burned down an immigrant hostel, in which 115 Vietnamese barely escaped death. As KfsV spokesman Werner Brand said: "This was a state-authorized pogrom! Now the Bonn regime is carrying out the Nazis' program on a national scale, with the energetic support of the SPD, by destroying the right to asylum. Now they are employing 1,500 Nazis on the Polish border in order to hunt down refugees."

The Nazis are cold-blooded killers. After the racist pogroms in Rostock and the Nazi murders in Mölln, everything indicates that SDAJ member Olaf Heydenbluth in Suhl, Freiburg activist Kerstin Winter and Mühlhausen leftist Mario Jüdecke must be added to the list of murdered leftists and anti-fascists which already includes Mete Eksi and Silvio Meier.

After first bringing charges against the four Spartakists, in January, as the case was becoming a cause célèbre, the Academy of Arts in Berlin withdrew the charges, saying it did not want to "be placed in the position of defending a Nazi flag." Showing the political pressures in play, the judge wrote that there is "no public interest in trying them under the present circumstances (right-wing radical tendencies)." Still the state prosecutor continued to press charges, until the case was finally dismissed in today's proceedings.

In its call for today's protest demonstration, the KfsV declared: "Let's put the successor state of the Third Reich on trial, the state that protects the swastika flag and makes use of the fascist gangs." Renate Dahlhaus, Spartakist candidate in the 1990 federal parliament elections and speaker at the anti-fascist mass demonstration on 3 January 1990 at Treptow Park, stated: "In order to bring down the capitalist state that is the breeding ground for fascist terror, we need a revolutionary party which leads the working class to revolution as the champion of all the oppressed." ■

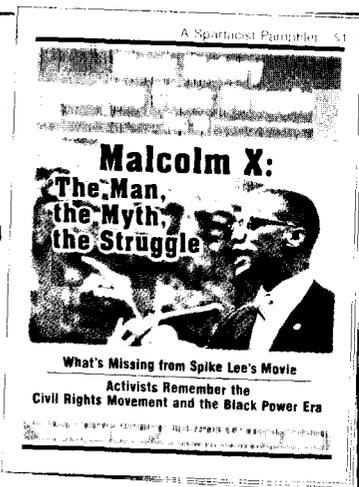
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From Death Row, This is Mumia Abu-Jamal

Down With Flags of Racism!

If the saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words," is even remotely true, then the picture I saw must be worth, at least, two thousand words.

The picture, published in the *Workers Vanguard*, shows a man with suspenders, holding a long metal pole with a scythe-like cutting device on its end, ripping a huge flag from a wall mounting in June 1992.

The flag?

A dark field with a light circle in the center, boasting a massive black swastika—the symbol of Germany's fascist past; the symbol of the Third Reich, the Nazis.

The wall from which it was hung? Not a dingy beerhall, where neo-Nazis gathered, but high, on a public wall near the Brandenburg Gate, in the heart of Berlin, part of a so-called government "historical display."

The man-in-suspenders, a supporter of the Spartakist-*Arbeiterpartei Deutschlands* (or Spartakist Workers Party of Germany), instead of being publicly applauded, found himself and several SpAD comrades taken into police custody for daring to disrespect the symbol of the Nazi terror.

He, Toralf Endruweit, Werner Brand, Ronald Krüger and Renate Dahlhaus, found themselves under arrest, until the

spontaneous demonstration formed by people who witnessed the action, including supporters of the Kurdish Workers Party, demanded and got their immediate release.

Now Endruweit, Brand, Krüger and Dahlhaus are going on trial, by a state that seems bent on honoring and resurrecting the symbol of Nazi state terror—the swastika.

The picture of Endruweit ripping the Nazi death symbol down brought to mind pictures of southern black legislators, climbing atop state capitols in Dixie, to tear down the flag of the Confederacy, a symbol of slavery. Several were arrested.

As offensive as the crossed bars and stars of the Confederate flag was to African-Americans, so too must the swastika flag enrage and offend Jews, Romani (Gypsies), Communists and homosexuals, all of whom were fed to the gas chambers and death ovens, while the Nazi banner flew above carnage.

In the ripping down of the Nazi flag from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the SpAD supporters did the right thing—better still by burning the racist rag.

For over a year since the flag was torn down, newly reunited Germany has exploded in a murderous orgy of *Ausländerfeindlichkeit* (German for hostility to foreigners) aided, abetted and exploited by unprincipled politicians from the major parties.

Since Reagan's salute to the Waffen SS in the Bitburg cemetery a mushrooming of neo-Nazi and skinhead terror has gripped Germany, marked most recently by the firebombing murder of a Turkish family of longtime immigrants several months ago.

In this hour then, as the state tries to embark on its Fourth Reich, progressive forces must put aside their partisan interests and applaud the ripping down of the racist rag bearing the swastika.

Demand freedom and acquittal for Endruweit, Brand, Krüger and Dahlhaus!

Support the SpAD defendants!

Down with the flag of racism and reaction!

Aus der Todeszelle, hier spricht Mumia Abu-Jamal.

From death row, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

14 January 1993

Widespread Support for Anti-Nazi Four

Numerous prominent individuals sent statements of support for the Spartakist supporters facing trial for tearing down the Nazi flag. In Germany, these included Karl Kielhorn of the Party of Democratic Socialism, a member of the Presidium of the Dachau Camp Association; R.J. Kawczynski, Chairman of the Rom & Cinti Union; Willi Sitte, a prominent East German painter and former president of the DDR Association of Artists; and Eva Brück, a writer and representative of the East Berlin Jewish group who fled the Nazi Holocaust with her parents.

From Jerusalem, Dr. Israel Shahak, a renowned fighter for Palestinian rights and a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, sent a message of support. So too did the Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Milano; Beate, Serge and Arno Klarsfeld, French Zionist Nazi hunters who have tracked mass murderers like Klaus Barbie; Esteban Volkov, the grandson of Leon Trotsky; and prominent Mexican muralist Vlady Kibalchich.

From Toronto, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, the pioneering champion of abortion rights in Canada whose clinic was firebombed by right-wing bigots, wrote: "As a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust I commend the supporters of the Spartakist Workers Party and the Committee for Social Defense for removing the swastika flag near the Brandenburg Gate."

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Philadelphia black journalist, is on death row at Pennsylvania's Huntingdon state prison. Framed up because of his political views, Jamal faces death for his defiance of the racist, capitalist order. His columns appear periodically in *Workers Vanguard*, *Spartacist Canada* and other newspapers.

To get involved in the fight to save Mumia Abu-Jamal and abolish the death penalty, contact the Partisan Defense Committee, Box 314, Station B, Toronto ON M5T 2W1. If you wish to correspond with Jamal, you can write to: Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM8335, Drawer R, Huntingdon, PA 16652.



Toronto Cops Riot...

(continued from page 3)

one. Fascists are not just right-wing ideologues with racist ideas. They are paramilitary action squads mobilized for genocide. Moreover, when capitalist governments do enact "anti-extremist" laws, these are intended not to stop the fascist gangs, but to disarm those who seek to defend themselves actively and militantly from fascist terror.

Mobilize the Power of Labor and Minorities!

Today the fascists are few in number, but still deadly. They must be stopped before they can grow. The key is power. The Russian communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky wrote that the fight against fascism begins *in the factory*, and ends in the street. It is only the working people, organized in their trade unions, who have the social power to take on the Nazi/KKK thugs and to face down their state protectors in the blue uniforms and black robes.

The multiracial working class builds the cars, refines the steel, drives the subway trains. They can shut the whole system down, and the profits of the bosses with it. That's why the capitalists fear their aspirations and their power above all else. When intense class struggle makes the bosses feel their grip on power is slipping, they will bring the fascist gangs to power to destroy the working class organizations. As in Italy and Germany 60 years ago, so today revolutionary leadership—a communist workers party—is decisive for successfully mobilizing the workers against the fascists. Lacking such leadership, the powerful and combative working class of Europe was smashed by the Nazi fist.

In Vancouver the skinheads were driven off not least because supporters of the Trotskyist League and the Partisan Defense

Committee went flat out to mobilize militant trade unionists and the power they represent—addressing union meetings, leafletting worksites and union halls. Despite the show-up on January 25, the students and others who came out in Toronto to stop the the Heritage Front were defeated. The bloodying of anti-fascists by the racist cops will make the skinhead trash even bolder. Student/youth-based actions, even the most determined and militant, are not sufficient to drive the fascists back into their holes. That requires a fighting alliance of all their intended victims, headed up by the organized working people and infused with a political perspective which looks not to the capitalist cops and courts but solely to labor's own power.

To many young anti-fascist militants, this might seem like a longshot at best. The current generation hasn't experienced much in the way of victorious working class struggle. That's testimony to the kind of do-nothing sellouts who run the union movement. But a whole string of successful labor/minority mobilizations organized by the Spartacist League/U.S. during the 1980s showed it could be done. For example, when the Ku Klux Klan declared they were going to march in Washington, D.C. in November 1982, a 5,000-strong demonstration—overwhelmingly black youth anchored by a rock-solid core of longshoremen, teachers, construction laborers and other unionists—saw to it that the nightriders never even put on their robes.

The mayor of D.C., black Democrat Marion Barry told the people of Washington to ignore the Klan. He threatened to shut down the anti-Klan demonstration and let the Klan march. But angry protests from Washington labor leaders representing tens of thousands of unionists made the mayor back off. The 900 riot cops that Marion Barry sent out that day to "escort" the Klansmen down Pennsylvania Avenue could only retreat and watch as the victorious anti-fascists poured into the street and took over the Klan's march route from the Capitol to the White House.

Labor/minority mobilizations have a history of success in Toronto, too. In August 1933, Italian and Jewish workers and students put the Hitler-loving "Swastika Clubs" out of business with a militant action that acquainted the Nazis with the pavement at Christie Pits. This is the tradition anti-fascists must look to today. Mobilize the power of labor and minorities to smash the Heritage Front!

Out of such mobilizations of the working class and oppressed can come the beginnings of factory-based workers defense guards, a proletarian militia which can challenge the capitalist ruling class's monopoly of armed force. The fight against fascism is the road of class struggle of the workers against the bosses, which must lead to the forging of a revolutionary workers party and socialist revolution. This requires a political struggle against the social democrats, the conservative union leaders, the false "socialists" who want to divert real struggle against fascism into "peaceful, legal" court challenges and support for the NDP.

We Trotskyists take as our starting point the struggle of working people and oppressed minorities for power, a struggle to sweep away the diseased capitalist system of unemployment, racism and war through socialist revolution. To students and others who want a strategy to stop the Nazi scum, who want to do away with the oppression and injustice we see everywhere today, we say: look to the working class, join the fight for a revolutionary workers party. This is the program that animates our struggle for a decent future, and it is also key to stopping the fascists here and now. ■

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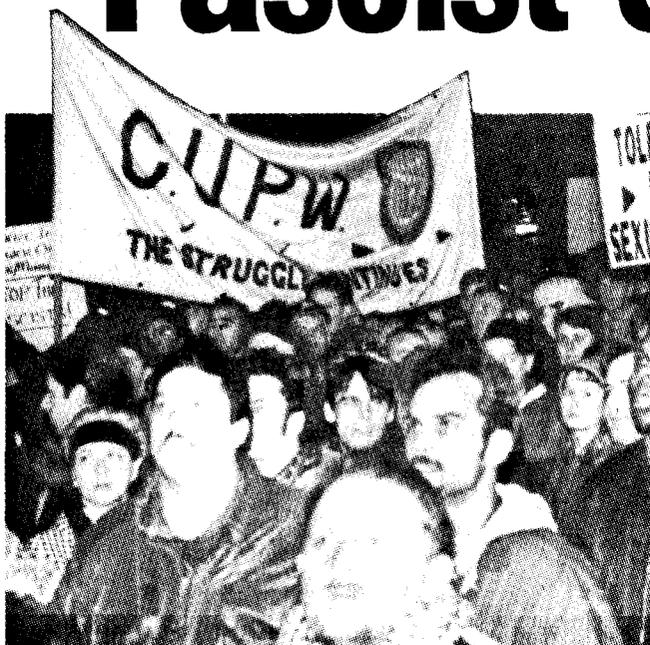
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Vancouver Labor/Minority Mobilization

3,000 Drive Off Fascist Skinheads



SC photo



Hodge/Vancouver Sun

Mass mobilization of unionists, minorities, students occupies site of threatened fascist rally at Vancouver Art Gallery. Later, militant protesters (right) routed Nazi thugs who tried to stage "secret meeting" at Century Plaza Hotel.

VANCOUVER—The Nazis of "Canadian Liberty Net" and their gang of skinhead punks were put on the run here Friday night, January 22. The Hitler-lovers had boasted they were going to rally in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery at 7 p.m., and organize a "secret meeting" to "welcome" infamous American Nazi Tom Metzger. What happened instead was no secret. The Nazis' intended site was occupied by 3,000 anti-racist protesters—organized contingents of trade unionists, youth, minorities, gays and other opponents of fascist terror.

When word ran through the crowd, as the rally was winding down, that skinheads had been sighted at the Century Plaza Hotel, hundreds took to the streets, joining with the Trotskyist League of Canada and Partisan Defense Committee in chanting, "Stop the Nazis, this is the hour! Labor, minorities have the power!" As the 500 marchers neared the hotel, the handful of fascists cowered in a side alley. Pursued by the demonstrators, the Nazis jumped walls, scrambled over fences and fled into the darkness.

"This was a victory," PDC spokesman Miriam Scribner declared. "What happened tonight was a vindication of our call

for a mass union-centered mobilization to sweep the fascists from the streets." After the two-bit Hitlers fled, the TL led part of the crowd downtown to a victory party, chanting "Off with the hoods! Off with the sheets! We drove the fascists from the streets!"

The *Vancouver Sun* headlined "White Supremacist Skinheads Flee Hotel," reporting: "As thousands of anti-racists demonstrated outside the Century Plaza Hotel, a small group of white supremacist skinheads escaped like terrified prey out a side entrance." The cops took their revenge by arresting two anti-fascist protesters, threatening them with charges including "weapons" possession and wearing a mask! *Drop all charges against the anti-fascist demonstrators!*

"All Out to Stop the Fascists"

The attempted "Liberty Net" rally was a deadly threat aimed at all labor and minorities in Vancouver. The race-terrorists have firebombed the homes of East Indian and Chinese Canadian families and burned a cross outside the house of

(continued on page 8)

Vancouver Mobilization...

(continued from page 7)

Iranian immigrants. A Jewish synagogue and a cemetery were defaced with Nazi slogans and swastikas, and a gay bookstore was bombed. Metzger's "White Aryan Resistance" skinheads brutally murdered an Ethiopian man in Oregon in 1988. Now the fascists announced a provocation at the Art Gallery, the traditional site for leftist and labor demonstrations in this city.

In response, the PDC, the legal and social defense organization associated with the Trotskyist League, issued an urgent appeal on January 11 to labor and minority organizations, calling for a "massive, disciplined display of labor power mobilizing minorities and all the fascists' intended victims—when and where the fascists say they intend to be.... Stopping this Nazi provocation is a matter of basic survival." This struck a real chord in Vancouver—a solid union town, with tens of thousands of East Indian and other Asian workers.

Two days later, the British Columbia Organization to Fight Racism (BCOFR) put out a press release calling for an "Anti-Racism Rally" at the Art Gallery to "Say no to W.A.R." The BCOFR rally, endorsed by the Vancouver and District Labour Council tops, was *not* called to stop the Nazi terrorists, but billed only as an "alternative to the advertised visit" by Metzger.

Intent on assuring that outrage against fascist terror was not diverted into an impotent talkfest, TL and PDC supporters distributed 30,000 copies of a mobilizing leaflet, addressing trade-union meetings and immigrant communities across the city. "All Out to Stop the Fascists!" said the TL leaflet, insisting:

"Official union contingents, under their union banners, together with East Indians, Chinese, Japanese, blacks, Native Indians, Jews, gays and socialists, can see to it that this Nazi 'rally' never happens, and that these scum are swept off the streets."

East Indian shopkeepers posted the leaflet in their windows. Students at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and Langara Community College took stacks to distribute.

The Vancouver local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers voted unanimously to endorse the TL/PDC call, issuing a



Trotskyist League called for mass labor-centered mobilization to stop the fascists in Vancouver. SC photo

leaflet calling for labor/minority mobilization, and sent a capable squad of union members to the demonstration. The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 500 put out their own leaflet as well, which was posted all over the waterfront, calling on longshoremen to go "All Out to Stop the Fascists" and "Join the Trotskyist League/Partisan Defense Committee Contingent!" (while repeating the Labour Council tops' plea that the government stop Metzger). A solid crew of longshoremen turned out, as did truckers and tugboat workers from two locals of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers Union. Saying they came "to make a point here," one union official expressed the widespread determination to make short shrift of the Nazis: "We'll stop them if they show."

Other labor contingents came from International Woodworkers of America-Canada Local 1-357, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 391, Telecommunications Workers Union Local 1 and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Some of these workers joined the TL/PDC contingent, supplying the main body of our marshals squad.

Official trade-union banners were everywhere to be seen outside the Art Gallery on Friday night. People from the city's Japanese, Chinese, black, Iranian and other communities were there, as well as women's groups and gays, and a Jewish peace group carried a sign in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The prospect of having to face a united front of organized labor, minorities and other anti-fascists sent the Nazis scurrying to find a new meeting site at a planetarium a couple of miles away. Tony McAleer, the would-be führer of Canadian Liberty Net, and a few skinheads strutted around for the bourgeois media and bragged about how they were going ahead with their "secret meeting."

At the Art Gallery, the BCOFR and others wanted to contain opposition to the fascists by trying to lull the crowd with music and insipid "love thy neighbor" speechifying—including in their roster a Tory MP who spoke as the representative of the racist, labor-hating federal Conservative government! The New Democratic Party loyalists of the BCOFR *never* intended to mobilize the battalions of labor to crush the fascists. They refused to call

Trotskyist League/Ligue trotskyste

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Spartakist

Counterrevolution in East Europe has fueled fascist terror. German Spartakist banner on anti-Nazi demo says "Workers/Immigrants: Stop the Nazis!"

for union contingents, and at a January 19 Labour Council meeting BCOFR spokesman Paul Gill explicitly opposed going after the Nazis if they dared show their faces in the vicinity of the Art Gallery.

Although the BCOFR rally was designed to head off any genuine mobilization to stop the fascists, militant and serious unionists representative of the powerful B.C. labor movement meant business; and they kept the fascists out. Trotskyist League spokesman Oliver Stephens was widely applauded when he said from the rally podium:

"The fascists want to destroy us and ours! They want to split us apart, to open us up for attack, to poison any kind of integrated struggle, like winning strikes. They are the shock troops of the racist ruling class. They can and must be stopped, and the organized working class has the power."

There were two *counterposed* political programs on how to respond to the fascist threat in Vancouver. The policy of the reformists and labor bureaucrats, which comes straight from the ministerial offices of the social-democratic NDP, was to preach reliance on the capitalist state and its police. In practice, this meant allowing the fascist provocation to go ahead. Against this the TL leaflet argued:

"Reformists believe that the capitalist state is 'neutral' and can be pressured to 'ban' the fascists. As Marxists we understand that this state enforces the rule of capital and that the fight against fascism is the road of class struggle leading to the forging of a revolutionary workers party and socialist revolution."

At a BCOFR marshals meeting on January 20, spokesman Alan Dutton made perfectly clear their intention that any Nazis outside the perimeter of the rally would be left alone to spew their racist filth. A representative of the Coalition United to Fight Oppression (CUFO), a rad-lib sandbox which includes the Freedom Socialist Party and the International Socialists, argued that if the skinheads showed up and tried to march through the rally they should just be "ignored"! A speaker for the I.S. advised the marshals not to remove known fascist provocateurs from the demonstration but just "keep an eye" on them!

These reformists tried to put their wimpy program into action at the demo. As marchers headed off for the Century Plaza Hotel to get the skinhead thugs, CUFO marshals first tried to slow the protesters down and then they (including the I.S.)

linked arms in front of the hotel to bolster the line of cops who were shoving the crowd back.

Last March, a gang of half a dozen skinheads waving swastika flags marched right through a "Rally Against Racism" that was held at the Art Gallery. TL supporters sought to mobilize demonstrators to defend themselves against these fascist thugs. But the rally organizers—the I.S. and CUFO—*let the Nazis parade with impunity!* The social-democratic I.S. is not guided by such Gandhian pacifism when it comes to anti-*communist* exclusions, launching a savage physical assault to keep Trotskyist League members out of a "public debate" in Toronto last August.

The Cold War "socialists" of the I.S. urged solidarity with every imperialist-backed counterrevolutionary force aimed at destroying the former workers states in East Europe and the Soviet Union. The result has been a tidal wave of reactionary nationalism and fascist terror which is the cutting edge of capitalist restoration. Those who cheered these forces in East Europe and the ex-USSR are hypocrites when they claim to want to "fight fascism" at home. The class-collaborationist appetites that underpinned the reformists' virulent anti-Sovietism can be seen in their supine response to the fascist terrorists here.

Forge a Revolutionary Workers Party!

After 16 years of union-busting rule under the ultraright racist yahoos of the Social Credit Party, the powerful B.C. labor movement thought it would get a break under an NDP government. But since their election in 1991, the NDP social democrats have imposed even further austerity, jacking up taxes and slashing social services, while alibiing racist cop terror against minorities. This is hardly new—the last NDP government in 1975 launched the most massive strikebreaking assault in the province's history. The social democrats serve as the labor lieutenants of capitalist class rule—"left" guardians of the decaying system that breeds fascist terrorists. In the course of class struggle, the NDP must be split, its working-class base won to a revolutionary party.

While small in numbers now, the fascists are the mortal enemies of all working people and must be crushed in the egg before they grow. When the capitalists feel their rule is being threatened by the working class—as in Germany and Italy in the 1920s and '30s—the bourgeoisie will finance the fascist killers and grease their rise to power in order to smash the workers organizations. Without revolutionary leadership the working class of Europe paid a terrible price, as the Nazi Holocaust devoured tens of millions of Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, leftists and others. As the TL leaflet concluded:

"Unionists, minorities and a lot of others who oppose everything the fascists stand for are looking for a way to fight back against a system that has condemned them to poverty, degradation, homelessness, broken unions and broken lives. A genuine class-struggle mobilization to *stop* the fascists of 'Canadian Liberty Net' would give a taste of the power that must be brought to bear in the fight for a socialist revolution to overthrow the decrepit rule of the capitalist bosses which finds its degenerate expression in Metzger's Nazi-lovers, and bring to power the working people who built all the wealth of this country." ■

A Victory Against the Fascists!

Trotskyists Reply to Media Smear Campaign

Four days after demonstrators swept the Nazis from the streets, Vancouver's two major daily newspapers published vicious editorials obscenely defending the "rights" of the murderous fascists while smearing the anti-fascist protesters as "a lynch mob" (Province) and as "goons in training" and "no better than the skinheads" (Vancouver Sun). We print below a 28 January letter of protest to the editors by Oliver Stephens for the Trotskyist League.

* * *

To the Editors:

Let's get it straight. What happened on January 22 was that trade unionists, minorities, socialists, gays and other anti-fascist fighters stopped the Nazis of "Canadian Liberty Net" and their degenerate skinhead punks from staging their planned provocation in downtown Vancouver. Instead of a fascist rally in front of the Art Gallery to "welcome" the infamous American Nazi Tom Metzger, 3,000 anti-fascist protesters occupied their intended site. Instead of skinheads marauding in the West End, 500 demonstrators sent them packing. This was a victory.

Now the editorialists of the *Sun* and the *Province* hope to steal in newsprint the victory we won on the streets by smearing the anti-fascists as a "lynch mob" and "goons in training," and conjuring up lying, sensationalist images of "a mob of anti-fascists carrying gasoline bombs and knives and baseball bats." Your violence-baiting yellow journalism is given the lie by the account of one of the *Sun's* own reporters, Doug Ward. His January 23 article, "White supremacist skinheads flee hotel," notes that even the specter of hundreds of anti-racist demonstrators outside the hotel was enough to send the skinheads fleeing "like terrified prey out a side entrance."

These cowardly racist thugs are accustomed to carrying out their sadistic violence, terror and intimidation in back alleys and in the dark of night. In this city gays have been savagely beaten by skinheads, the homes of Chinese Canadians and East Indians have been firebombed, a Jewish synagogue defaced

It Takes \$\$\$ to Stop the Fascists

It took a lot of money to make sure the fascists didn't rally in Vancouver. Thirty thousand leaflets calling for "All Out to Stop the Fascists" and "Join the Trotskyist League/Partisan Defense Committee Contingent" were printed. There are still bills to pay for telephones, rally equipment rental, placards, banners, photos and much more. Show your support for stopping the fascists by sending a financial contribution to: Partisan Defense Committee, Box 314, Stn. B, Toronto, Ont. M5T 2W1.

with swastikas, a cross burned on the lawn of an Iranian residence.

The Trotskyist League and the Partisan Defense Committee distributed tens of thousands of leaflets calling for a massive, disciplined display of labor power mobilizing minorities and all the fascists' intended victims to stop the Nazis' planned provocation on January 22. Contingents from the ILWU, the CUPW, the CBRT, CUPE and the IWA came out behind their own union banners, as did the Newspaper Guild and hospital workers. Contingents from the TWU and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers were also there. We stopped the fascists and showed these kill-crazy racists that we weren't going to let them terrorize the streets of Vancouver.

Your attempts to smear those who stopped the Nazis as "violent" only serve to encourage yet more violent attacks by the fascists on the people of Vancouver and to give free license to the cops who are now trying to throw the book at two anti-fascist protesters. We demand that all charges against the anti-fascist demonstrators be dropped!

While slandering the anti-fascist protesters, you express great concern for protecting "freedom of speech" and "association" for the Nazis. Metzger, McAleer and their skinhead terrorists are not some kind of "debating" clubs. They are killers who "speak" with chains, lead pipes and through the barrel of a gun—and ultimately with gas chambers.

The *Sun* and *Province* editorialists may feel unaffected by the racist terror that has been perpetrated on the streets of Vancouver, or by the murder of an Ethiopian man by Metzger's White Aryan Resistance skinheads in 1988, or by the images of immigrant workers being burned alive in their homes by Nazis in Germany. But the unionists, minorities, socialists and all the other opponents of fascist terror who came out on January 22 understand that stopping the Nazis is a life or death issue. It is a tribute to them that the fascists were run off the streets. ■

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SC91

New World Disorder...

(continued from page 1)

out at that crowd from the stage you saw union banners with representative contingents from just about the entire Lower Mainland labor movement—longshore, woodworkers, CUPW, CBRT, CUPE and more. They came out as a direct result of the work of the PDC and the Trotskyist League. That they mobilized is what petrified the Nazis, and that is what we must build on to go forward.

Capitalist Counterrevolution Breeds Fascist Terror

This afternoon, I'd mainly like to talk about the question of stopping the fascists internationally. You all know about the pogroms, the horrific Nazi atrocities which have targeted immigrants and refugees in Germany. The firebombing of a Vietnamese workers hostel in Rostock last summer gripped world attention and triggered an explosion of fascist attacks throughout the reunified German state. A few weeks ago Nazis murdered the family of a Turkish worker near Hamburg.

The government of Helmut Kohl and the opposition Social Democrats—the German equivalents of the NDP—have echoed the fascists' anti-refugee, anti-foreigner propaganda. They have resolved to "modify," or more precisely eliminate, the constitutional right to asylum for refugees. Tens of thousands of Roma (Gypsies) have already been deported to Romania. Last November Chancellor Kohl and President von Weizäcker showed up at a 300,000-strong demonstration "for human dignity" in Berlin—only to be booed down by thousands of angry leftist youth amid a hail of eggs, tomatoes, stones and plastic bags filled with paint. The word "Kohl" is German for cabbage—the protesters tossed a few of those too.

The fascist atrocities have galvanized an upsurge of leftist youth protests in Germany, and also the beginnings of action by the working class. A few days before Kohl and von Weizäcker were pelted in Berlin, 20,000 leftist youth and immigrants marched in Bonn in an anti-fascist demonstration seen as explicitly counterposed to the oh-so-respectable Sunday gathering for "human dignity." Our comrades of the Spartakist Workers Party have intervened in these protests, calling to stop the Nazis through workers united-front action, and demanding full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers. This Saturday, January 30, is the sixtieth anniversary of Hitler's seizure of power and the Nazis have threatened another round of anti-immigrant terror. Our comrades have taken the lead in organizing defense of immigrant hostels in Berlin that day, in a united-front action which has already won support among trade unionists.

Our call to mobilize the German working class, the strongest in all Europe, against the Nazis is hardly an abstract idea. Last summer Germany's public-sector workers demonstrated their power when they convulsed the country in the largest strike in postwar history. Hundreds of thousands struck against government wage-cutting attacks, forcing the Kohl government to retreat. They won widespread solidarity including strike action by workers in economically ravaged eastern Germany, the former DDR workers state which was swallowed up by the imperialist West two years before. This strike signaled that the long postwar period of relative labor "peace" in Germany has



Financial Times

Italian students in 30,000-strong demo protesting anti-Semitism.

come to an end.

Today the German Reich is trying to pay for its annexation of the DDR and its imperial ambitions toward other former workers states in the East by increasing the exploitation of the working class at home. Indeed, the German bankers who control the European monetary system are putting the screws to working people throughout the continent.

Strikes and Anti-Fascist Mobilizations

Class battles and anti-fascist struggle have broken out elsewhere. In Italy, 200,000 people, mainly youth, came out in militant protest against fascist attacks on the Jewish quarter in Rome last November. Emboldened by startling electoral support for the fascist Lega Lombarda of Umberto Bossi, fascists have escalated their violence all over the country while the police turn a blind eye. *Against* their existing reformist misleaders, the industrial working class went into revolt last September, shutting down city after city in general strikes against the government's savage austerity program.

On October 10, the industrial city of Torino was shut down. Workers and students filled the streets and marched on the town hall chanting "Here we are with our red banners! Go fuck yourself Umberto Bossi!" (It rhymes in Italian.) When Rome's Jewish ghetto and African quarter were plastered with racist graffiti, several hundred Jewish youth and concentration camp survivors rejected the usual "responsible" appeals to "ignore the Nazis" and, armed with iron bars and chains, carried out a successful lightning raid on the fascists' headquarters, ripping the fascist flag from the wall and carrying it back to the Jewish quarter as a war trophy. Death camp survivors, their children and grandchildren stayed in the streets till dawn celebrating their victory over the fascists.

Four days later, 25,000 high school students left school on a Monday afternoon and marched in the streets of Milano. I was in Italy at the time and spoke to members of the Lega Trotskista d'Italia, our co-thinkers there, who were on that

(continued on page 12)



Leo Erken

Polish miners, shown here demonstrating for higher wages in 1990, have thrown Walesa's "shock therapy" government into crisis with militant strike action in Silesian coal fields.

New World Disorder...

(continued from page 11)

demonstration. They described how young leftists in Palestinian *keffiyeh* scarves linked arms with Jewish youth in *yarmulkes*, chanting "We won't forget the Holocaust" and "It is not a crime to kill a fascist!"

In Greece, hundreds of thousands of workers have waged mass strikes against capitalist austerity schemes again dictated by the German bankers. The month of September alone saw street battles with riot police, militant mass picketing and three general strikes which repeatedly brought over 100,000 workers into the streets. In Britain, 500,000 trade unionists and their supporters marched through London in defense of coal miners facing another huge round of pit closures. And in Poland, Silesian coal and copper miners as well as workers at the giant car and tractor plants have waged strike action against attacks by the clerical-nationalist regime of Lech Walesa's *Solidarność*.

Late last month, the 300,000 Silesian miners again hit the bricks opposing a plan that would lay off more than half the workforce. The Polish capitalist government has been thrown into a major crisis. As our comrades of the Spartacist Group of Poland emphasized in their leaflet distributed to these strikers, the missing ingredient preventing a workers' victory is conscious revolutionary leadership. And that holds true everywhere.

The "New World Order"

Just over three years ago, a U.S. State Department ideologue named Francis Fukuyama published an article proclaiming that the victory of the capitalist West in the Cold War meant we had reached the "end of history." This thesis was all the rage. His claim was that we have seen the definitive triumph of "liberal democracy," and that this constituted the "end point of mankind's ideological evolution" and was indeed the "final form of human government."

Well, capitalist academics can be pretty stupid, but this "end of history" thesis was particularly dim even by their own standards, as we Marxists stated at the time. Far from ending, history today is on fast-forward. And the idea that something called "liberal democracy" is triumphing everywhere is ludicrous. Instead we have the rise in fascist terror, along with bloody imperialist massacres from Panama to the Persian Gulf and new open neocolonialism like the U.S. invasion of Somalia

where the talk about "humanitarian" food aid is just a transparent cover.

The phrase "New World Disorder" has almost become a cliché. We have entered a highly convulsive new political period, filled with great dangers for the working people of the world—right up to the danger of thermonuclear World War III between competing imperialist would-be superpowers. But this is also a period of great *opportunities* for mobilizing working people and the oppressed against a capitalist system whose bankruptcy becomes more evident by the day.

For the Communism of Lenin and Trotsky

A couple of months ago the organization which the Trotskyist League of Canada is part of, the International Communist League, held a wide-ranging conference in Europe to assess and prepare ourselves for this new period. Communists active in more than a dozen countries, from Mexico to Japan and Australia, Ireland to France and the ex-Soviet Union gathered to discuss the way forward. You can read the major document adopted at this conference in the new issue of our theoretical journal *Spartacist*. The document emphasizes how this period was ushered in with the collapse of the workers states in East Europe and then the Soviet Union.

In 1917, the Russian Revolution marked the greatest single achievement in mankind's history. It opened the road for the first time toward an international communist future, free from wars, poverty, unemployment, oppression. *World revolution* was the explicit perspective of Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky and the other leaders of the revolution, who went on to found the Communist International.

But in 1924 a conservative bureaucratic caste centered on Josef Stalin seized control. They began to push the anti-Marxist perspective of building "socialism in a single country." Rather than organizing revolutionary class struggle against the capitalists, the Stalinists increasingly sought to make "peaceful co-existence" with them. Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers—who were persecuted, expelled from the Soviet Union and murdered by Stalin and his agents—warned that this would lead to disaster. They said it would mean betraying revolutionary opportunities abroad, it would mean undermining the gains of the Russian Revolution, and it would pave the road for the restoration of capitalism. This has now come to pass, in a terrible defeat for the world working class.

In August 1991 Boris Yeltsin's forces of open capitalist

restoration rose to power in Moscow. We issued a statement, "Defeat Yeltsin/Bush Counterrevolution," distributed in hundreds of thousands of copies throughout Russia and the other republics. It began: "The working people of the Soviet Union, and indeed the workers of the world, have suffered an unparalleled disaster.... The first workers state in history, sapped and undermined by decades of Stalinist bureaucratic misrule, lies in tatters. The state power has been fractured, the Communist Party—its bureaucratic core—shattered and banned..., the multinational union is ripping apart...."

Emphasizing that the situation was by no means stable, and that Yeltsin lacked a solid state structure to impose counter-revolutionary "order," we called on the working class to rally in a political revolution to overthrow the capitalist-restorationist government while it remained new and relatively weak. In contrast, most so-called left groupings shamelessly took their stand on Yeltsin's counterrevolutionary barricades. And I don't mean that as a figure of speech; in some cases they were *literally* there on the barricades with Yeltsin's yuppskies, black marketeers and CIA allies. Here in Canada, reformist left groups like those around *Socialist Worker*, *Socialist Challenge* and *The Militant* placed themselves squarely on the wrong side of this decisive historical test. I still remember some of their front-page headlines claiming "Soviet workers win big victory" and such garbage.

With the failure of the working class to come into battle, with the purgation and reorganization of the military on top of the formal legal dissolving of the USSR, quantity has turned into quality and we have seen the consolidation of fledgling capitalist states in the former USSR. A major article published in the latest issue of our newspaper *Spartacist Canada* (No. 90, Winter 1992/93), "How the Soviet Workers State Was Strangled," explains how this came to pass.

Let me emphasize something here. Despite the Stalinists who misruled the Soviet and other workers states and ultimately undermined them from within, these were societies which pointed in the direction of a far higher and more just human order. In the former DDR the unemployment rate was zero—that's right, zero. Childcare provisions and women's participation in the workforce were the highest in the world. Now, after the counterrevolution, unemployment is estimated at 40 to 50 percent. Women have been driven out of the workforce and back to what Hitler called "Kinder, Küche, Kirche" (children, the kitchen and the church).

In Yugoslavia, the anti-capitalist revolution led by Tito's Communist partisans in the 1940s was able to unite the working people of the different South Slav nationalities for just about the first time in history. In Sarajevo, Serbs, Croats, Muslims lived in relative harmony for decades, with a lot of intermarriage and relative equality. Now all this has been destroyed in a bloody civil war, as competing would-be capitalist strongmen carry on their nationalist crusades.

The new states being congealed in the former USSR and Eastern Europe have nothing in common with the imperialists' fabled "liberal democracy." Rather, every tendency is toward right-wing bonapartist reaction and fascism. And far from opposing this, the Western imperialists agree that this may be the only way to restore "order" and discipline the working class.

So the collapse of the Soviet Union has had far-reaching effects. On the one hand, the imperialist powers, who no longer have the Soviet counterweight to worry about, have embarked on ever more grotesque rounds of banditry and neocolonial

pillage. This was shown in the horrific Gulf War massacre by U.S. imperialism and its Canadian allies—a massacre which George Bush tried to repeat as the final act of his presidency. The workers states in Cuba and Vietnam, won and defended with so much self-sacrifice, are in grave danger. The U.S. invasion of Somalia signals the kind of neocolonialist rule the imperialists have in mind for Africa.

Build a Multiracial Workers Party!

The fascists feel the wind in their sails. In December neo-Nazi skinheads murdered an engineer in Montreal in a gay-bashing attack. In Toronto the Nazi Heritage Front has been targeting the high schools with their race-hate tracts while synagogues and cemeteries have been defiled with swastikas. Meanwhile the Tory government's new immigration law depicts all immigrants and asylum-seekers as terrorists and criminals, while deportations are stepped up and the racist cops have declared open season on minorities in cities throughout the country. In the past month alone Ecuadoran food worker Tony Vega in Toronto and Trevor Kelly, a Jamaican man in Montreal, have been murdered by the cops. And remember the brutal cop beating of Chinese immigrant Zheng Feng Hua in this city.

The capitalist leaders of this country are massively distrusted and hated by working people coast to coast. And that includes Mike Harcourt, Bob Rae and their gang of pro-capitalist NDPers who have been sticking it to working people and the poor from Toronto and Victoria. It's becoming clear to more and more working people that no amount of parliamentary-reformist tinkering is going to solve the massive problems facing working people in this country or this world. It's going to take class struggle; it's going to take revolutionary leadership; and it's going to take socialist revolution—in other words, communism.

The capitalist media talk about how communism is "dead." Rubbish. *Stalinism* is dead, that disfigured caricature of a hollow Marxism—and good riddance to it. But so long as capitalism continues to exploit the working people the world over, the fight for communism will live on, in the daily struggles of working people.

In South Africa, mass struggles by the black working class continue to shake the racist regime, even as the ANC leadership tries to put a lid on it all in the name of "power sharing."

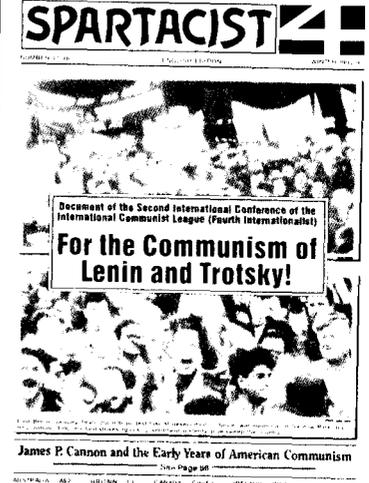
(continued on page 14)

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New World Disorder...

(continued from page 13)

In South Korea, wave after wave of workers strikes and occupations, supported by a large and radical student movement, continue to rock the U.S.-backed dictatorship. Last spring's multi-racial upheaval in Los Angeles against unremitting racist cop terror was echoed in mass revolts and protest demonstrations in cities throughout North America including here in Canada.

Workers like the Yellowknife gold mine strikers continue to battle the capitalist employers. Sixteen months ago, the country-wide government workers strike gave powerful testimony to the potential of working-class struggle, as airports, trucking and other industries were shut down, and mass pickets uniting English-Canadian, Québécois and minority workers filled the streets and plazas of Ottawa and other cities.

There is no new world order; rather there is profound instability. Everywhere, the capitalists want to step up their attacks on working people and minorities. We have no option but to fight back. But the key to victory—whether in stopping the fascists, winning strikes, or going all-out in the fight for workers power—is *leadership*. The great Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky summed up the problem 55 years ago. As he wrote:

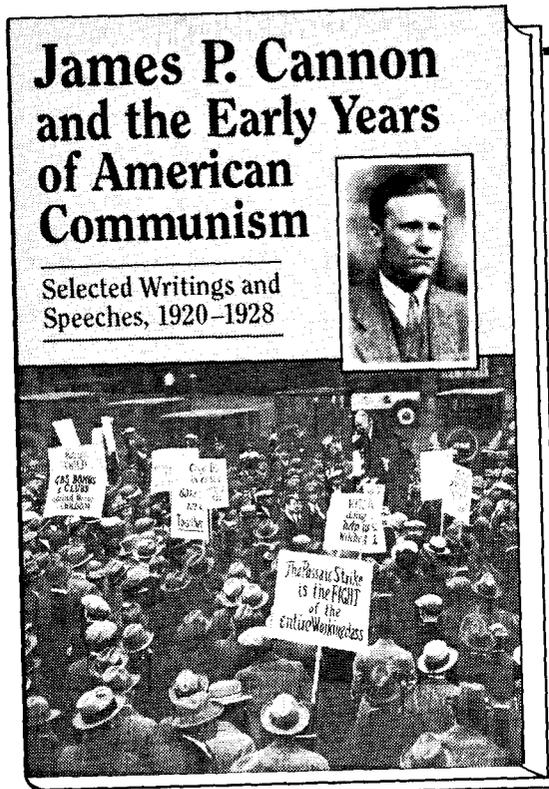
"All talk to the effect that historical conditions have not yet 'ripened' for socialism is the product of ignorance or conscious deception. The objective prerequisites for the proletarian revolution have not only 'ripened'; they have begun to get somewhat rotten. Without a socialist revolution, in the next historical period at that, a catastrophe threatens the whole culture of mankind. The turn is now to the proletariat, i.e., chiefly to its revolutionary vanguard.

The historical crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of revolutionary leadership."

I want to close by citing another voice far more powerful than my own. Those of you who read *Workers Vanguard* and *Spartacist Canada* are doubtless familiar with the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the black Philadelphia journalist and former Black Panther Party spokesman who is today on death row, framed up because of his political views. The Partisan Defense Committee has been very active in the fight to save the life of this heroic fighter for black freedom and social justice, in North America and throughout the world, and I would urge you all to get involved with us in this very important fight.

In the aftermath of the Nazi pogroms in Germany last summer and fall, Jamal wrote a column from his death row cell titled "Outrage in Rostock." Describing how the police and capitalist politicians, all "eager to expand their constituencies," echoed the Nazis' anti-refugee rhetoric, and stood by as they carried out their terror, Jamal saluted the beginnings of mass opposition. "In the streets and alleys of reunified Germany," he wrote, "the future of Europe and much of the world is being forged. Time will tell whether it will be a future of promise, or of pogroms."

From Rostock to Rome, from Berlin to Vancouver, stopping the fascists requires massive mobilizations of labor and minorities, mobilizations whose social power will point the way towards the working-class revolution we so desperately need. As in Russia in 1917, the key is forging a truly communist vanguard party to lead the inevitable struggles to victory. Join with us in the fight to build such a party, to ensure mankind does have a future of promise—indeed, that it has a future at all. ■



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Labor Anger Erupts...

(continued from page 16)

nothing fundamental will change for working people and the oppressed. The problem isn't one man or one party, it's the whole rotten system of production for profit.

The new federal UI legislation is intended to help instill "labor discipline" through fear of unemployment. Like their brothers and sisters internationally, working people in Canada have been taking it in the neck for a long, long time. Unemployment is already the highest among the G-7 major imperialist powers. Now the bosses want to turn the screws even tighter. Yet the official labor "leaders" have acted as accomplices of the bosses in this onslaught, giving up concession after concession, surrendering jobs and working conditions, whipsawing workers against one another. Waving the Maple Leaf in English Canada and the *fleur-de-lys* in Quebec, they set working people at each other's throats along national lines, and stir up racist hatred against foreign-born workers.

NDP Pushes Capitalist Austerity, "Slashing and Burning" Social Programs

In English Canada, the union brass of Bob White & Co. are again stumping for Audrey McLaughlin and the NDP. Yet even these hidebound "labor statesmen" have had to verbally distance themselves from the New Democrats, who have abandoned even their occasional lip service to being "Canada's party of labor." Putting in an appearance on the Montreal UI protest, Audrey McLaughlin told reporters the NDP wanted to "get capital into the hands of all those entrepreneurs who are able to develop Canadian business." And the NDP showed what it thinks of labor struggle when the Ontario provincial government jailed postal union leaders for defending their picket lines in the fall 1991 strike.

These very right-wing social democrats now simply echo the Tories and Liberals, emphasizing that their number one priority is "reducing the deficit"—boss-speak for attacking workers' living standards and social services. Saskatchewan's NDP premier Roy Romanow has offered the province's unemployed workers and bankrupt farmers a "slash and burn" budget. "We are talking about—if I may be rather gruesome about it—amputations of programs," he said.

In Ontario, where official unemployment is eleven percent and another ten percent of the population has been driven onto welfare to survive, the NDP is turning the screws more ruthlessly than previous Tory and Liberal regimes ever dared. A draft NDP policy paper proposes forcing all welfare recipients to get a job (where?), enrol in job training, do "volunteer" work...or be cut off. As an "incentive" to disabled people and single mothers, the report offers benefit cuts of up to \$200 a month. Threatening yet more huge cutbacks, provincial treasurer Floyd Laughren added: "I sure hope we can do it in a way that Ontario will still have a medicare system [!], will still have the kind of education system that makes it accessible to everybody."

For their part, the labor bureaucrats in Quebec have embraced the bourgeois nationalists of the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois of ex-Tory cabinet minister Lucien Bouchard. Back in the 1970s, the Quebec labor brass worked overtime to bring the PQ to power. The *péquist* government of René Lévesque showed its gratitude by launching a wave of union-busting attacks on what was then the most combative section of the North American proletariat. The union bureaucrats are today replaying the same disastrous scenario.

Nationalism is a *trap* for the working people of Quebec, whose road to genuine national and social emancipation lies only through joint struggle alongside workers in the rest of North America.

Fight or Starve—For Workers Power!

The capitalists and their NDP toadies want working people to pick up the tab for the huge national deficit, which at more than \$600 billion (and rising by the minute) is now per capita the highest in the world. The bosses' newspaper of record, the *Globe and Mail* (16 February) cited a recent conference organized by the C.D. Howe Institute involving "leading business economists and economic analysts." "Canada's growing debts," it reported, "have put the country on the threshold of a major crisis in which foreign investors could simply stop buying Canadian bonds, an action that would force Ottawa and the provinces to slash Canadians' living standards by suddenly cutting spending on an unprecedented scale." One "senior economist" pointed to the recent draconian cuts in pensions and social programs in Sweden and Italy, warning this could soon be on the agenda here as well.

The anti-working class offensive by Canada's capitalist rulers is part of a *worldwide* drive against the working people. Competing imperialist powers are forming trade blocs and jockeying for position and "profitability" as they gear up for international trade war. The U.S./Canada free trade deal—which is now being expanded to allow wholesale economic rape of impoverished Mexico by North American multinationals—was designed to shore up one such imperialist trade bloc, and to produce a "level playing field" by "restructuring" workers rights and social programs throughout North America. This has produced a devastating wave of plant closures, especially in industrial Southern Ontario where more than a quarter of all manufacturing jobs are now gone for good. And it has meant an all-out capitalist drive to "level" the relatively better social programs on this side of the border down towards something more like the open-shop U.S. South.

Canada's greedy capitalist rulers have managed to damn near bankrupt this country. The social democrats and labor tops aim to save these parasites, not to fight them. Instead of waging class struggle, they push the poison of protectionism, thus lining up Canadian workers with their "own" capitalist exploiters and against workers abroad.

The working people must seize the vanishing wealth of this society before the bourgeoisie squanders it all—and for that, we need a fight for power. The key is a revolutionary workers party that doesn't respect the bosses' "property rights," a party that says to the exploited and oppressed: we built it, we want it all, it ought to be ours, so *take it*. Such a party will unite the working people by opposing English Canadian chauvinism and defending Quebec's right to self-determination, while simultaneously fighting to break the grip of nationalism on Québécois workers. It will take up the cause of immigrants and refugees, demanding full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers and their families; it will fight for internationalist working class unity throughout the Americas and beyond.

Capitalism promises only more oppression and more devastation for us all. Only a thoroughgoing workers revolution and the inauguration of a socialist planned economy can put an end to the bosses' frontal offensive on our jobs and our rights. Enough is enough! From Montreal to Mexico, from Cape Breton to California, the only solution is a fight for workers power! ■

For a Revolutionary Workers Party!

Labor Anger Erupts Over UI Cutbacks

On February 7, nearly 50,000 angry trade unionists and unemployed workers marched twenty abreast down Rue St.-Denis in Montreal to a rally outside the federal government offices in Complexe Guy-Favreau. The workers, braving -30 degree cold, bused in from cities throughout Quebec to denounce the federal government's blitzkrieg against unemployment insurance. The same afternoon, another 1,500 protesters rallied in Quebec's industrial Lac St.-Jean region.

The massive turnout in Montreal testifies to the bitterness which has accumulated among working people. Right across Canada, sparks have started to fly in a series of isolated but militant labor battles. On Cape Breton Island, unionists at Clearwater Foods and most recently Premium Automotive have staged

dramatic factory seizures to stop scabbing and prevent plant closures. With official unemployment on the island already 26 percent, determined workers have pushed through police lines, driven scabs and management from the plants, defied court injunctions and held millions of dollars worth of equipment to ransom until their demands were met.

In early January, workers in the Quebec town of Amos shut their community down tight in a 24-hour general strike. Furious at the endless drain of jobs, they barricaded the roads in and out of town, closing all surface access to Hydro-Québec's massive James Bay hydroelectric project 850 kilometers to the north. Meanwhile in Yellowknife, strikers at the Giant gold mine continue to stand firm against both RCMP scabberding and a media witchhunt engineered by the cops, who want to target them for the death of nine scabs in an underground explosion.

These labor actions point the way to the kind of hard class



SC photo

Close to 50,000 trade unionists and unemployed workers march against unemployment insurance cuts in Montreal, February 7.

struggle needed to stop the capitalist jobs massacre and countless other attacks on working people and the poor. But localized battles are nowhere near enough: the power of labor must be unleashed coast to coast in a wave of strikes and factory occupations against layoffs and plant closures! Fight for jobs for all and a shorter workweek with no loss in pay! There's plenty of will to struggle—what's lacking to drive back the bosses' onslaught is a fighting class-struggle leadership.

Mulroney Goes, Capitalist Crisis Remains

Cheers went up in factories and offices and on unemployment lines throughout the country when Brian Mulroney announced his resignation on February 24. But whether Kim Campbell or Michael Wilson steps into his shoes, whether Liberal Jean Chrétien or even New Democrat Audrey McLaughlin moves into 24 Sussex Drive after the next election,

(continued on page 15)