For workers political revolution to stop capitalist restoration!

What next for China?

Deng's death and the crisis of Stalinism

Last October, central Beijing saw the gala opening of the Chang An Club. For an annual membership fee of $9000, top government officials, Hong Kong tycoons, mainland Chinese businessmen and resident foreign executives can enjoy tennis courts, bowling alleys, a swimming pool, an electronic golf simulator, a sauna and the use of corporate boardrooms. Two traffic lights away, an old man in his seventies and his grandson were begging in the streets for their next meal. This is a good example of what China's "paramount leader" Deng Xiaoping, who died two weeks ago, called "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

The eulogies for Deng by the leaders of Western and Japanese imperialism have hailed him as the "architect of modern China". Yet there was also a note of nervous apprehension that Deng's death has removed a central pillar in the fragile internal stability of the most populous nation on earth. The Beijing bureaucrats are themselves keenly aware that they are sitting atop a volcano of popular unrest - fuelled by the "market reforms" which marked Deng's reign. Even unofficial expressions of mourning were suppressed through a massive mobilisation of security forces, for fear they could turn into political protests.

Conventional wisdom in the West is that what used to be called "Red China" has become capitalist or has gone so far down that road that it will automatically become capitalist in the near future. Deng "Chose Capitalism", declared the front-page headline of the New York Times in reporting his death. Yet even the Times recognises that matters are not so simple and straightforward. Its editorial commentary praised Deng for "the dynamism of his reforms" but also worried "how incomplete and therefore tenuous those reforms remain". The term "reforms" is, of course, a code word for those policies - eg. opening China to foreign investment, the privatisation of small and medium-sized industrial enterprises - which have undermined the collectivised economy and brought China to the brink of capitalist restoration.

Through threats of economic sanctions and other measures, Washington has been pushing hard for the Beijing bureaucracy to escalate the drive towards full-fledged capitalism. Currently, the US and other imperialist powers are demanding that China slash investment in state-owned enterprises, while Labour is gaining complete and therefore tenuous those reforms remain". The term "reforms" is, of course, a code word for those policies - eg. opening China to foreign investment, the privatisation of small and medium-sized industrial enterprises - which have undermined the collectivised economy and brought China to the brink of capitalist restoration.

Through threats of economic sanctions and other measures, Washington has been pushing hard for the Beijing bureaucracy to escalate the drive towards full-fledged capitalism. Currently, the US and other imperialist powers are demanding that China slash investment in state-owned enterprises, while Labour is gaining

Blair wins Wirral flying bloody Union Jack

New Labour's massive win in the Wirral South by-election on 27 February, securing this safe Tory seat for Labour for the first time ever, is widely trumpeted as evidence New Labour will win a huge majority in the general election. Labour's campaign in Wirral was jingoistic to the core, with the bloody Union Jack everywhere added to the yellow-and-red Labour banner. Financial Times journalist, Philip Stephens noted (28 February): "The Union flag now flutters at every New Labour rally. Every breakfast with business executives is calculated to reinforce the message: New Labour is safe." Safe that is for "God, Queen and Country". Blair has proclaimed that under New Labour, British imperialism can "regain influence abroad". He is presenting New Labour as the party of the business world and of "Fortress Europe".

Their hand-picked candidate, Ben Chapman, a former regional Trade and Industry director and company boss, ran on the slogan "Ben Means Business". New Labour intends to wage war on the working class, immigrants and minorities, and on everybody who is consigned to the bottom of the heap in this decaying capitalist society. But while Labour is gaining

in Tory heartlands, there is simmering discontent from broad layers of society. Scotland has seen strikes and mass demonstrations against Labour council cuts, and polls show that nearly nine out of ten black youth see no point in voting.

The Spartacist League (SLP) candidate Mick Cul-

We say: No vote to New Labour!

continued on page 4

continued on page 8
Spirited protest meets Peruvian dictator Fujimori

"Fujimori, assasin!" rang out in front of the prestigious London School of Economics on 11 February in a spirited united-front protest in front of the Peruvian embassy. The march was initiated by the Workers Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) to protest against the bloody repression of the workers and youth by the Peruvian government. The protest was joined by members of the Spartacist League (SL) and the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG), Latin American leftists, Socialist Worker Student Society (SWSS), the Anarchist Federation and the Revolutionary Movement for a Socialist United States of Europe (RMUSUE). The SL contingent stressed that "the main enemy is at home"—the fight to overthrow the bourgeois system is the only way forward from Peru to Britain. When protesters chanted "Abajo Fujimori!" (Down with Fujimori!), we added "Owera al poder!" (Power to workers!) which was joined by a significant section of the workers in the Latin American contingent chanting "Fujimori — Go to hell!"

The united front and the fight against fascism

In "What Next, Vital Questions for the German Proletariat" (1932), Leon Trotsky argued for the Communist Party to implement the tactic of the united front to both unite the workers in action against the fascists and to break the workers from their pro-capitalist Social Democratic leadership. Trotsky warned against the criminal ultra-left line of the Stalinist Comintern, which denounced the Social Democrats as "social fascists". We fight for militant mobilisations based on the power of the mass organisations of the working class to crush fascism. The tactic of the united front is critical to winning workers and youth to the communist programme in order to overthrow the capital system, which spawns fascism. Today, Trotsky's writings on Germany contain vital lessons for the struggle against the sinister rise of neo-fascism and the growth of fascism in Europe.

And so, ten years ago, the Comintern explained that the gist of the united-front policy was in the following: the Communist Party proves to the masses and their organizations its readiness in action to wage battle in common with them for aims, no matter how modest, as long as they lie on the road of the historical development of the proletariat; it turns not only to the masses, but also to those organizations whose leadership is recognized by the masses; it confronts the reformist organizations before the eyes of the masses with the real problems of the class struggle. The policy of the united front hastens the revolutionary development of the class by revealing in the open that the common struggle is undermined not by the disruptive acts of the imperialists, but by the conscious sabotage of the leaders of the Social Democracy. It is absolutely clear that these conceptions could in no sense have become obsolete.

— "What Next? Vital Questions for the German Proletariat", January 1932

Defend South Korean trade unions!

A spirited Spartacist contingent joined a protest called by the Korean Friendship Society to defend the imprisoned South Korean workers and their unions. Internationally our comrades initiated or joined in demonstrations of proletarian solidarity in Tokyo, Sydney, Melbourne, Mexico City, and across the United States. Our placards called for "Victory to the South Korean workers! Smash the reactionary anti-union laws!" and demanded: "Free the arrested South Korean trade union leaders now!" We chanted: "Defend North Korea from imperialism!" United-front demonstration at London School of Economics, 11 February 1997 against blood-drenched Peruvian dictator, Alberto Fujimori.

United-front demonstration at London School of Economics, 11 February 1997 against blood-drenched Peruvian dictator, Alberto Fujimori.

by a chorus of "Go to hell!" gladly took our lead in following that with "John Major—Go to hell!" When we then added "Tony Blair——", they also answered "Go to hell!" to the embarrassment of Will, who want Blair to go to No. 10 Downing Street to administer capitalism. Everybody knows that the prime-minister-in-waiting will stand by British imperialism's favourite butchers. We chanted: Major and Blair love capitalist bloodsuckers; hate the working class. As our speaker pointed out, what is needed is a proletarian revolution led by a Leninist party. For workers revolution in Peru and across the Americas!

Workers Hammer

For a federation of workers republics in the British Isles!
For a Socialist United States of Europe!

Published by the Central Committee of the Spartacist League, British section of the International Communist League (Fourth International).

EDITORS: Andrew Galbraith
MANAGING EDITOR: Ian Watt
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathie Tennant
Spartacist Publications, PO Box 1941, London NW5 6EU
Subscriptions: £3, overseas US$4.50, European €4, overseas airmail £7

Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily express the editorial viewpoint. Printed by Cheviot Valley Lithographers Ltd (UK), ISBN 0-9519787-2-1

2

WORKERS HAMMER
Asylum now! Full citizenship rights for all immigrants!

Desperate hunger strike in prison hellhole

MARCH 1 — Nearly two months ago, asylum seekers locked away at Rochester Prison in Kent went on hunger strike demanding their claims to asylum be heard and an end to their imprisonment as criminals. Several weeks into the protest, some of the refugees even stopped taking fluids, while ghoulish Home Office Minister Ann Widdecombe repeatedly undermined the government’s willingness to see them starve to death. Media access to facts about the asylum seekers is tightly restricted, but reportedly five of the hunger strikers have been released on bail. Asylum rights campaigners have said that four other gravediggers of the government whose names are none are now continuing the hunger strike.

The various campaigns for refugee rights and asylum mainly focus on the injustice of Tory policies on immigration. But the Labour Party has compliled with the government’s every racist move on the question of immigration. The Labour Party abstained from the crucial 1996 Immigration and Asylum Act and pledges to uphold most current anti-immigration legislation. It’s history, in power and out, is of fulsome support to the anti-immigrant right and to the racist Order.

Recent reports are of fulsome support to the anti-immi-gration National Front. The 1964 Labour government of Harold Wilson extended anti-immigrant laws, tightening quotas on non-white immigration and introducing “paternalism,” the 1974-79 Labour government brought in the notorious “virginity tests” for Asian women. The 1981 Nationality Act, passed by the Thatcher Tory government, had been prepared by the previous Labour government. Numerous reformist groups as well as centrist outfits such as Workers Power and the Workers International League, in their strategic unity with the Labour Party, claim a Blair Labour government can be pressured to adopt more humane policies. But one look at Labour’s record should stop that fantasy cold.

Today, anti-immigrant racism is the rallying cry of the imperialist rulers and their fascist auxiliaries, from Le Pen’s Front National in France to Hitlerite skinheads in Germany and the British National Party. Anti-immigrant frenzy, fuelled by intensifying inter-imperialist economic rivalries, has its echo in the poisonous protectionism of the trade union bureaucracy. The TGWU leadership “fought” — and lost — the battle to preserve jobs at Ford Halewood in February under such slogans as “Let British workers build Ford cars for the British market.”

Murderous targeting of immigrants internationally is the background to the shocking tragedy of the migrants bound for Italy on a freighter, the Yishan, who were drowned at sea in December. In the treacherous waters of the Malia-Sicily channel, some 320 Asian immigrants were “forced at gunpoint by the mother-ship’s drunken captain into a smaller wooden boat, built to hold only a third of their number and already shipping water” (Observer, 12 January). The smaller boat was then rammed by the Yishan and sank, drowning at least 282 of its passengers. The surviving immigrants were dumped in Greece and arrested. The Yishan captain, party to the extortion of thousands of dollars from each of his desperate passengers, managed to do a disappearing act. Except for the Observer, this horrific event was scarcely reported in the British bourgeois press.

As we wrote in “Immigration and racist oppression in Europe” (Workers’ Hammer no 152, September-October 1996):

“Anti-immigrant demagogy and terror are being used to divide and divert the working class from united struggle against the present capitalist offensive. There can be no compromise between the international programme which the proletariat requires to fight for power and even to wage defensive struggles in the imperialist epoch and the acceptance of the poisonous racism which splits the working class and serves only the bourgeois masters. The revolutionary Trotskyists of the International Communist League have actively championed the rights of immigrants, fighting for full citizenship rights for everyone no matter how they managed to get here.”

We print below a 29 January letter of protest to Home Secretary Michael Howard by the Partisan Defence Committee.

We vehemently protest the brutal treatment of the asylum seekers at Rochester Prison in Kent. At least 16 have been on hunger strike for more than three weeks, against, as their statement says, their “unlawful imprisonment without trial, hearing or process.” The barbaric British state could very soon be responsible for the deaths by starvation of three of the hunger strikers who, as of midnight on Sunday 26 January, began refusing fluids. Grendly weakened already, they have been pronounced by doctors to be in danger of dying within 48 to 72 hours of the time they stopped taking fluids. Now two more have joined them.


The jails and detention centres of Britain are filled to overflowing with asylum seekers like the 180-200 at Rochester Prison, who have fled repression in such countries as Russia, Algeria, Zaire, and Nigeria. Charged with no crime, they are left to rot as criminals for an indefinite period, often two or more years. This country’s racist and draconian immigration policies ensure that such people are driven to acts of extreme, life threatening desperation.

The horror now unfolding at Rochester brings to mind the butchery committed by the British state 16 years ago when ten Irish republican prisoners died slow and painful deaths on hunger strike, fighting for political prisoner status, in the H-block of Long Kesh.

In the vile tradition of the British government’s exclusion of Jews fleeing the Nazi holocaust, today the capitalist government of Fortress Europe clung shut the doors on hundreds of thousands of refugees from brutal repression from all corners of the world. On Christmas Day, 280 Indians, Pakistani and Sri Lankan immigrants were drowned off the Sicilian coast, murdered by smugglers who understood that such refugees are deemed expendable by the imperialist rulers.

We demand: Immediate release of the Rochester Prison hunger strikers and all asylum seekers held in detention! Shut down Campsfield and all the refugee detention centres! Full citizenship rights for all immigrants!

Yours sincerely,

Kate Klein for the PDC

In memory of Blair Peach

Anti-fascist martyr

On 23 April 1979 Blair Peach was murdered by the British state. Along with thousands of others, Blair Peach, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, had turned out for an anti-fascist rally in the predominantly Asian Southall area of London against the National Front (NF) fascist scum. That day saw hundreds of anti-fascist protesters arrested and dozens injured. The murderous cops of the Special Patrol Group killed Blair Peach, fracturing his skull through repeated blows to the head. Those responsible for Blair Peach’s murder were never brought to justice.

Fascist terror gangs are on the rise across Britain, spurred on by capitalist counterrevolution in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union amidst imperialist “New World Order” crisis. Blair Peach was murdered by cops administrated by the Callaghan Labour government. Blair Peach, 1946-1979

needed are massive mobilisations of trade unions and minorities to crush the fascists! The memory of Blair Peach should be seared in the minds of every class-struggle and anti-fascist fighter. It will take workers revolution to smash the rotten capitalist system, which breeds the fascist scour. Only then will the death of Blair Peach along with all the victims of this racist capitalist system be avenged.

We present below a 29 January letter of protest to Home Secretary Michael Howard by the Partisan Defence Committee.

We vehemently protest the brutal treatment of the asylum seekers at Rochester Prison in Kent. At least 16 have been on hunger strike for more than three weeks, against, as their statement says, their “unlawful imprisonment without trial, hearing or process.” The barbaric British state could very soon be responsible for the deaths by starvation of three of the hunger strikers who, as of midnight on Sunday 26 January, began refusing fluids. Grendly weakened already, they have been pronounced by doctors to be in danger of dying within 48 to 72 hours of the time they stopped taking fluids. Now two more have joined them.


The jails and detention centres of Britain are filled to overflowing with asylum seekers like the 180-200 at Rochester Prison, who have fled repression in such countries as Russia, Algeria, Zaire, and Nigeria. Charged with no crime, they are left to rot as criminals for an indefinite period, often two or more years. This country’s racist and draconian immigration policies ensure that such people are driven to acts of extreme, life threatening desperation.

The horror now unfolding at Rochester brings to mind the butchery committed by the British state 16 years ago when ten Irish republican prisoners died slow and painful deaths on hunger strike, fighting for political prisoner status, in the H-block of Long Kesh.

In the vile tradition of the British government’s exclusion of Jews fleeing the Nazi holocaust, today the capitalist government of Fortress Europe clung shut the doors on hundreds of thousands of refugees from brutal repression from all corners of the world. On Christmas Day, 280 Indians, Pakistani and Sri Lankan immigrants were drowned off the Sicilian coast, murdered by smugglers who understood that such refugees are deemed expendable by the imperialist rulers.

We demand: Immediate release of the Rochester Prison hunger strikers and all asylum seekers held in detention! Shut down Campsfield and all the refugee detention centres! Full citizenship rights for all immigrants!

Yours sincerely,

Kate Klein for the PDC

MARCH/APRIL 1997

3
China
(Continued from page 1)
industries as a condition for joining the World Trade Organization and "to speed the opening of the country's economy" (New York Times, 2 Mar). Looming over all this is the rivalry between the US and Japan over economic domination of the region, they hope to secure "for the right" to unassailable exploitation of China's huge proletariat and race for resource-rich Sibera, reopened to imperialist plunder as a result of the destruction of the Soviet Union. Recall that World War II in the Pacific was fought primarily for control over China. However, it was also fought through a pro-

China on the brink

The bloodstained laurels of Mao Zedong have brought the Chinese Revolution to the abyss. The 1949 seizure of power by Mao's Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the subsequent defeat of Chiang Kai-shek's Guomindang (Kuomintang) Nationalist regime of Chiang Kai-shek shattered capitalist rule and brought China, through a revolution led by a proletariat, for the first time to a state of national unity.

But while China was a single country, the Chinese revolution was a single country, the Chinese revolution was not a single country, but a series of revolutions fought by the Chinese working class against Chinese imperialism, national as the world party of socialist revolution, and the world party of socialism.

The spectre of Tiananmen

The one force which can stop the drive towards capitalist restoration is the Chinese proletariat. The discredited Stalinist bureaucracy lives in fear of the spectre of the mass upheaval in May-June 1989. Beginning with student protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, the working people of Beijing, later joined by their class brothers and sisters throughout China, threw themselves into battle against the despised Deng regime. For two weeks, the government could not enact the declaration of martial law in the face of massive popular resistance. The PLA, formed during the civil war against Chiang's forces and the anti-Marxist dogma of building a "socialist country" out of the 1949 Revolution, with its programme of "building socialism with capitalist enterprise through Special Economic Zones" (SEZs), where he called for extending "free market" enterprise throughout the country, is the programme needed in China today for the working class to build a new socialist state. The Chinese proletariat, with the support of the world's working class, will overthrow the regime of Deng and establish a new socialist state.

The day Deng's death was announced, a retired worker in Beijing who repairs bicycles by the roadside exclaimed bitterly to a Western journalist: "In the past everyone was equal. Now college graduates can't get a job."

Every year since 1991, the number of strikes and mass protests has increased, both state-owned and private capitalist enterprises have increased. Unlike the workers of Poland, East Germany and the Soviet Union, who took to the streets in 1989, the Chinese workers have already experienced the "magic of the marketplace", and know they will not be among its winners.

Some Tiananmen dissidents have been engaged in efforts to organise trade unions opposed to the regime's corporatist All-China Federation of Trade Unions (COW), and in particular the capitalist SEZs. Such activists can be quite heroic, battling for workers rights against both the bosses and Chinese state forces. However, as Marxists, we warn against those, like Han Dongfang, who are tied to the pro-capitalist labour bureaucracy in Hong Kong and to the American AFL-CIO, who lead for decades acted as labour agents for US imperialism.

The increase in labour struggles in China indicates that the working class is not about to see its rights taken away without a fight. While the economic plane is not enough to stop the counterrevolutionary tide. To do that requires that it be armed to fight, for the political arena is the political arena. As Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky wrote in his analysis of the degeneration of the Russian Revolution under Stalinism, "the Great October Revolution of 1917, which destroyed the Russian bourgeoisie as a class, the Chinese Revolution essentially clashed the Guomindang out of the mainland to Taiwan, Hong Kong and elsewhere, allowing the Chinese bourgeoisie to retain cohesion as a class. Indeed, overseas Chinese capital has recently displaced Japan as the main source of investment finance in East Asia, and has penetrated mainland China through investment in the SEZs. This danger is now about to be greatly exacerbated. On 1 July, Hong Kong will revert to China after 150 years as a British colony. The treaty of 1842 between China and the British crown - under the rubric of "one country, two systems" - that it will not lay a finger on the island or its offshoots. The destination of Hong Kong is intended by Beijing as a signal of its aim to reunify with Taiwan on a capitalist basis. As we declared in an article headlined "Britain out of Hong Kong!" (Workers Hammer no 109, September 1989), we are for "one country, one system - under workers rule!"

The dreams of the bureaucrats and bankers of a peaceful, bountiful restoration of capitalism are illusory. The state, the Stalinists administer it based on the revolution which expelled the Chinese bourgeoisie and created a nationalised economy. The aims of China's "just business" - to centralise the security to buy and sell property and hand it over to its offspring - can only be achieved through the destruction of the existing state apparatus by means of one or another and its replacement by a new one and to the principle of private ownership of the means of production.

The spectre of the US military occupation of Hong Kong, Chris Patton, with Beijing-anointed replacement, Tung Chee-Hwa, has driven the Chinese Stalinists had pledged to maintain capitalism in Hong Kong.

Depriving British colonial overlords, Hong Kong, Chris Patton, with Beijing-anointed replacement, Tung Chee-Hwa, has driven the Chinese Stalinists had pledged to maintain capitalism in Hong Kong.

China is approaching a decisive turning point. Whether the increasing US imperialist forces for capitalist restoration succeed in destroying the gains of China's social revolution or at war through a pro-
Beijing workers' involvement in the 1989 Tiananmen student uprising led to incipient political revolution.

The following article is adapted from Workers Vanguard no 663, 7 March 1997.

On 28 February, Cook County Circuit Court judge Marvin Lurken refused to dismiss vindictive charges against three participants in an anti-Klan protest initi­ated by the Partisan Defense Committee (PDC) and Chicago Labor Black Struggle League. Last 29 June united-front protest was accompanied by Commerce Chancellor Gene Herson, Jeffrey Glass, a young black worker, who was arrested face to face in one case with a Klansman armed with bolt-studded long flagpoles. In the court hearing, Mark Kerman of the PDC testified that the protesters moved to defend themselves, as the Klansmen marched towards them in military formation, the Klan wielded their flagpoles as weapons, and violently taunted one black protester to "come and get it, boy". After the protesters had successfully stopped the potentially lethal assault by the lynching mob, three Klansmen murdered the KKK, the police arrested 28 February protest organised - managed to protect the Klan demonstrators.

The prosecution of the three anti-racist demonstrators for attempted murder was accompanied by Commerce Chancellor Gene Herson, Jeffrey Glass, a young black worker, who was arrested face to face in one case with a Klansman armed with bolt-studded long flagpoles. In the court hearing, Mark Kerman of the PDC testified that the protesters moved to defend themselves, as the Klansmen marched towards them in military formation, the Klan wielded their flagpoles as weapons, and violently taunted one black protester to "come and get it, boy". After the protesters had successfully stopped the potentially lethal assault by the lynching mob, three Klansmen murdered the KKK, the police arrested.

The prosecution of the three anti-racist demonstrators for attempted murder was accompanied by Commerce Chancellor Gene Herson, Jeffrey Glass, a young black worker, who was arrested face to face in one case with a Klansman armed with bolt-studded long flagpoles. In the court hearing, Mark Kerman of the PDC testified that the protesters moved to defend themselves, as the Klansmen marched towards them in military formation, the Klan wielded their flagpoles as weapons, and violently taunted one black protester to "come and get it, boy". After the protesters had successfully stopped the potentially lethal assault by the lynching mob, three Klansmen murdered the KKK, the police arrested.

Today, the Beijing rulers increasingly promote Chinese nationalism — including the assertion of "traditional" Confucian values — as a sort of ideological glue to maintain their control. For China's working masses, this is a poisonous false consciousness, serving to identify their interests with their would-be exploiters in the Chinese bourgeoisie.

The racist nationalism common to both Mao and Deng is also expressed within China in the bureaucracy's Han chauvinism against ethnic minorities. This has been highlighted in recent weeks as Beijing's troops brutally suppressed protests by the Turkic-speaking, traditionally Muslim Uighurs in the western province of Xinjiang. For decades, the imperialists have used the demand for independence for Tibet as a battering ram against the Chinese de­formed workers state. A Trotskyist party in China would seek to mobilise the pro­letariat to defend the rights of national minorities against Han chauvinism, and in opposing imperialist-sponsored "in­dependence" movements, we defend the right of independence for a Tibetan soviet republic.

For a Trotskyist party in China, China's alliance with the US, initiated under Mao, helped set the stage for Deng's "open door" to imperialist exploita­tion. Today, Mao's heirs don't even give lip service to the goals of socialism as a stage openly offering themselves as craven agents of American strategy, butthrough the Soviet degenerated workers state.
JOHANNESBURG — Heaping contempt on the memory of those who fought apartheid terror, the South African government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has accepted an application for "amnesty" for the cops who tortured and killed Steve Biko in 1977. At the time of his death at age 30, Steve Biko was the leader of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) and the most prominent spokesman for a new generation of anti-apartheid militants. His murder was an outrage which shook the world, making him a symbol of all the many thousands martyred in the fight against the brutal apartheid system of racist segregation and repression. It is no less an outrage today that Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in government seeks to amnesty Steve Biko's murderers.

Restricted to his cell for weeks, shackled and naked, Biko was beaten to the point of unconsciousness, then dumped in the back of a Land Rover for an eleven-hour drive to a prison hospital in Pretoria, where he died of brain damage. His killers are a group of former security policemen who have now confessed to taking part in the murder of at least ten Eastern Cape anti-apartheid activists, many of whom were drugged, tortured and shot dead, then burned on wooden pyres, with their remains dumped into the Fish River to conceal the bloody crimes. The racist killers today approach the TRC for "amnesty" for those who killed Biko.

Biko became the leading exponent of BCM, which proposed black self-reliance through self-help community projects and racial pride. Biko's movement was strongly influenced by eclectical nationalist writings, from Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) in the US to Frantz Fanon and Julius Nyerere in Africa. Biko saw black pride as a counterbalance to white racism and encouraged the unity of all those discriminated against on the grounds of colour or race, including the coloured and Indian sectors of the population.

When a new generation of activists embraced Biko as their young leader in the aftermath of the June 1976 Soweto uprising, the racist police turned their sights on him. Repeated bannings and limited circulation of his writings left Biko's views open to broad interpretation by various nationalists from PAC to the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO). His groups like the ANC and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) had been banned and driven into exile by the massive crackdown which followed the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

The ANC regime installed in 1994 seeks "reconciliation" with the racist torturers and those who profited from their hideous crimes. Headed by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the TRC was consciously designed as an impotent safety valve for the victims of apartheid injustice to vent their suffering while their racist tormentors typically not only remain free but in positions of power. Mandela's bourgeois-nationalist ANC serves as the black front in neo-apartheid South Africa.

The ANC statement on the bid for amnesty by Biko's killers expresses "hopes that former security police officers and medical practitioners implicated who were involved in such activities would break ranks with the past". This was also their line when former defence minister Magnus Malan was let off last October. At that time we pointed out: "For the white racists, the Malan verdict confirmed that the ANC regime would continue to shield them from the vengeance of the black masses." (Workers Vanguard no 654, 25 October 1996).

As the ANC presides over capitalist austerity on behalf of the white racist ruling class and foreign investors, this has led to an exacerbation of ethnic and tribal tensions among the non-white masses. In early February, barely two weeks after the news about Biko's killers emerged, the ANC government unleashed police and troops against protesters in the predominantly coloured ("mixed-race") townships of El Dorado, Westbury and Newclare in southern and western Johannesburg. As cops fired buckshot and live ammunition into the crowd, four people were killed and several others injured. The township revolts erupted over government attempts to collect rents and utility rates, as residents accused the regime of reneging on a 1994 agreement to cancel all past unpaid charges. But the anti-government protest, whose basic demand was entirely justified, was marked by general hostility to blacks among the coloureds involved.
political career cut short by assassination, like Malcolm X, Biko in death became an example of how the legitimate grievances of one sector of the oppressed can be exaggerated and manipulated by political leaders. Biko's family has courageously opposed his racist killers' bid for amnesty. Thousands of outraged demonstrators have taken to the streets. But most left and "radical" groups, including the nationalists in PAC and the AZAPO guerrilla fighters, which Biko's legacy has refused to organise protests against the TRC sham. This passivity is a reflection of the lack of a popular-front-government, which is based on the "trihpcracy" of the ANC, PAC, and the Congress of South African Commu...
Down with state persecution of Roisin McAliskey!

Since her arrest in Northern Ireland last November, Roisin McAliskey has been locked up in English jails and repeatedly denied bail. Pregnant and physically ill, she was first placed in a filthy "punishment cell" in Belmarsh prison, where she showed signs of advanced starvation. Her solicitor Gareth Peirce said: "Her body began to eat into her muscles. She's been told to be prepared to be separated from her child after it's born." She is now incarcerated for a possible six months under "maximum security" conditions, left to rot in solitary confinement, subjected to murderous daily "strip searches" and denied adequate medical treatment, courtesy of the British "justice" system.

Roisin McAliskey has not been convicted of any crime, but is imprisoned pending extradition to Germany, where she is wanted "for questioning" in connection with an IRA mortar attack on the British Army base at Omagh last summer. The SLP firmly denies any involvement. However, under the European Convention on Extradition she is deprived of any legal right to present her defence, or to challenge any evidence the German authorities may have against her, while the extradition proceedings drag on. McAliskey faces the prospect of a premature birth, in "maximum security" conditions, probably shackled in handcuffs, following which, if her baby survives it will be forcibly taken away by the07] and she languishes in jail, possibly for years!

Meanwhile her case is being obdviously kicked around by a political football by capitalist governments in London, Bonn and Dublin. Amid public outrage over repeated exposures of systematic torture and rape by so-called "Loyalist" death squads, the system of injustice, the British courts cynically tried to claim that in refusing bail to her, they were complying with the German government's request. The Germans threw this back saying "responsibility for the decision to refuse bail lies irrevocably with the State of Germany."

In Dublin, Labour leader Dick Spring summoned the British ambassador and warned that the case "could damage the shared objective of British and Irish governments". This refers to the distinctively imperialist "peace" fraud of 1993, which was premised on the subjugation of the Catholic minority in the North, including through maintaining the armed British Army presence. It is still stuck to the hilt by the Labour parties both in Britain and Ireland, and by the Dublin government. The SLP's election campaign in southern Ireland violently targets women and Republican prisoners in Irish jails, and its brutality against Travellers is a mirror image of the treatment meted out to the Irish by the British state.

The Irish Post (14 December 1996) noted that "Many believe that the charges against Roisin McAliskey are a politically motivated bid to silence her mother's criticism of the peace process". The vindictive treatment of Roisin McAliskey is part of the continuing repression against the Catholic population in Northern Ireland. Her mother, Bernadette, is a prominent nationalist and former MP; seventeen years ago, she and her husband Michael were riddled with bullets in their revolution. The patriotic newspaper Bernadette McAliskey opposes the pro-imperialist "peace" process from within the nationalist framework, viewing the IRA ceasefire as a "sellout". But the nationalist strategy - both of "armed struggle" and of "negotiated settlement" - is a desperate, and fatally attempting to pressurize the imperialists.

The Socialist League/Britain and the Dublin Socialist Group have participated in protests, demandino: Free Roisin McAliskey! No extradition! But we know full well that out! British imperialism has always exploited antagonisms between workers - English against Irish, Protestant against Catholic, white against black and Asian - in the economic and political interests of the capitalist system of private property, and it is now being pressed into acting in the interests of the oppressed and expelled. The record of the Labour Party in government is just as bloody as that of the Tories. In 1969 Labour sent the British troops to Northern Ireland: in 1972 these troops carried out the premeditated murder of the 13-year-old Bobby Sands. Labour backed Thatcher as she condemned Bobby Sands and the H-Block hunger strikers to a slow and painful death. Tony Blair's new Labour has backed Major at every point, and solidarised with Ulster Loyalists engaged in mass terror against Catholics during the "Siege of Drogheda" last year.

We seek to unite the working class of these islands in a struggle for workers' power, against exploitation, imperialism, smashing the sectarian Orange statelet in Northern Ireland and the clerical state and its brutal state power. We want the working class seizes power from the capitalist exploiters and oppressors, shutting their state power, can the basis be laid for a new society of justice and equality for the poor and oppressed of these islands.

Labour... (Continued from page 1)

...campaign for Cullen, a sacked Liverpool docker standing in opposition to New Labour, on a programme which called for education for all, decent health care and the eradication of unemployment. However, we say no to the SLP's Labour reformism which is incapable of satisfying the felt needs of the working class and oppressed.

Our leaflet "Vote Mick Cullen?" (23 February) noted: "Although the assault on the working class and the oppressed in international, the SLP election statement does not address the resurgence of racist anti-immigrant hysteria in this country and throughout Europe. The total absence from the SLP's election material of any reference to racism in Britain, or indeed any issue outside Britain, was particularly glaring in the face of New Labour's flag-waving patriotism, and points to the British nationalism of the SLP's programme. Our leaflet insisted that "Only a party which fights for international working-class solidarity across national lines can fight in the interests of the working class and oppressed."

The SLP only received 156 votes. The by-election offered the opportunity to galvanise support for the dockers but the SLP's campaign barely mentioned the dockers fight, which is being knifed by the pro-Blair TUC and TGWU bureaucrats. The SLP's programme renders it incapable in principle and practice of fighting for victory, in opposition to the defatism of Morris & Co. Dockers leader and SLP member Jimmy Nolan says that solidarity strikes, which are vitally necessary to shut down the port of Liverpool and to break out of isolation, are not "realistic". Nolan also welcomed Morris & Co's scheme to end strikes among workers struggling for "economic independence", to make the workers' Strikers in a capitalist company which would end up supplying casual labour to the dockers fight. The early SLP's Labour reformism rendered the workers an obstacle to class struggle and its programme has been replaced with a revolutionary leadership.

Our Trotskyist programme has enabled us to organise a new broader campaign for a Workers' Party, and to conduct principled campaigns of critical support to SLP candidates in thirty by-elections. We counterposed a programme for genuine working class power in opposition to the SLP's reformism. This is in marked distinction to the official Labour Party campaign, which only recently vowed loyal to New Labour, or have politically liquidated into the SLP. The Socialist Workers Party is typically acting coy, posturing as the "socialist alternative". On past record these Labour-Loyalists will dutifully weigh in behind Labour.

First prize for blind faith in New Labour goes to Workers Power (WP), who "want a Labour landslide", no less. "A vote for Labour is a vote for the whole new situation for the working class" they say, while conceding that a Labour government "means to carry on attacking the "working class" where Maggie leaves off" (Workers Power, no 209, March 1997). While committed to working-class independence and to the left, the WP has the gull to urge the self-styled "left" inside the SLP to fight for "a hail to all expulsions" and "remove the ban on socialist groups affiliating to the SLP". WP looks to the Socialist Labour Action platform in the SLP who, not surprisingly, advocate a vote to New Labour where there is no SLP candidate.

The "socialist groups" WP refers to include Militant Labour/the Socialist Party (SP), who are standing their own candidates in the general election, while simultaneously advocating a Labour government. The Socialist (7 March) proclaims its "time's up for the Trotskyists" and asserts "One thing is certain, the general election will be our chance to end the 18-year long nightmare that we have experimented with the Tories". We will fighting, as our programme calls to, to build a critical socialist to Labour Party candidates. Their campaign is subordinated to electing a Labour government. This has for years refused to call for British troops out of Northern Ireland and supports the imperialist "peace" fraud. Now we advocate a vote for the only socialist, the pro-independence Scottish Socialist Alliance (SSA) candidates, including Weekly Worker supporter Mary Ward in Dundee. The foundering document of SSA calls to "maximise the anti-Tory vote" which is a call for a Labour victory, but could also permit voting for bourgeois parties such as the Scottish National Party! Inside or outside the SLP, the politics of the SP and Socialists work hand in hand to sustain a counter-revolution in these islands.

We fight to complete the task begun by the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky when they led the working class to power in Russia in October 1917. Such a party must be based on an internationalist programme and understanding that the only guarantee of the welfare of the working class and oppressed is through the destruction of the system based on the exploitation of workers.

"We agree with Cornelius Lenin that the protestant cannot take over the existing state and wield it for its own purposes, but must organises the working class as a class and build a new state power based on workers councils. We say: Abolish the survivals of feudalism - the monarchy, the church, the army, the police, the church! For the right of self-determination for Scotland and Wales! For workers' councils to replace the Irish border and both sides of the Irish Sea, establishing a federation of workers republics in the British Isles."

WORKERS HAMMER
Let Mumia Abu-Jamal be heard!

MARCH 3 — Attorneys for Mumia Abu-Jamal were notified today of two new Pennsylvania Supreme Court rulings which severely damage Mumia's appeal. The first is a decision to uphold the frame-up conviction that sent Jamal to death row in 1982. The second decision denies Mumia's de­fense motion to present oral argument in his appeal before the Court. This move is clearly aimed at preventing the kind of courtroom expos­ure of Jamal’s frame-up which helped gain worldwide publicity for his cause during his 1995 FCR4 appeal hearings. The two decisions mean that the District Attorney's office will have the final word on Mumia's appeal papers, allowing prosecutors to rehash the case and present a new misrepresentation of what has happened to date in the appeal process. These rulings come on top of the District Attorney's frame-up of Jamal, which has led to a series of legal battles, including appeals and cross-examinations by Mumia and his supporters.

Thisleveland is literally the policing of the airwaves, as WRTI jumps to the command of the FOP. For the trigger-happy cops and the politicians and pri­vatizers who push the racist death penalty, it's unthinkable to let the public hear Mu­mia's powerful, incisive voice. His incense­nce in the 1981 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner is clear to any­one who looks at the face of a trial con­vict. The current decision also makes it clear that the FOP and the racist death penalty are on the way.

Let Mumia Abu-Jamal be heard!

On 24 February, moments before a well-publicized scheduled airing of com­ments to supporters of Mumia and MOVE supporter Mumia Abu-Jamal, Temple University’s WRTI-FM radio pulled the plug on the Democracy Now! programme. These may well be the last audio recordings of Jamal allowed by jail authorities, yet WRTI shamelessly capit­ulat­ted to the Rest of Philadelphia (FOP) and the state that wants to silence him forever. WRTI's cowardly cancella­tion of Amy Goodman’s popular show dep­ends not only Philadelphia's left who are ignor­ing Mumia's eloquent voice, but eleven other area stations lost their broadcast relays.

This muzzling of Jamal is literally the policing of the airwaves, as WRTI jumps to the command of the FOP. For the trigger-happy cops and the politicians and privatizers who push the racist death penalty, it's unthinkable to let the public hear Mumia's powerful, incisive voice. His incensence in the 1981 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner is clear to anyone who looks at the face of a trial convict. The current decision also makes it clear that the FOP and the racist death penalty are on the way.

Under capitalism systematic and delib­erate frame-ups by the cops and the courts are the norm for the poor and oppressed. This is because, as Marx and Lenin ex­plained, the state—which consists of armed forces, police, prisons and courts—is the instrument with which the capitalist class maintains its rule over the working class. For Marxists there can be no question of making the cops and courts answerable to the working class and the state. The capitalist state has to be shat­tered through workers revolution. This fundamental premise of Marxism is flatly denied by those groups on the left who subordinate every struggle to the overriding goal of electing a Labour government. Labourism goes in hand in hand with the suicidal notion that the capitalist state is neutral and can be reformed. Such illusions lead to whitewashing the cops. A marxist example is Miltian Labrador, (re­nowned the Socialist Party) who have long pre­sented the lie that the cops are "workers in uniform".

A Labour government will wage war on workers and minorities!

In the face of public outrage over the criminal "justice" system, the state is vastly strengthening the powers of the cops and courts. Tony Blair’s New La­bour has often outflanked the Tories in the "law and order" stakes—they have sup­ported repressive legislation— the Crimi­nal Justice Act, the Public Order Act, the Immigration and Asylum Act and anti-trade union laws. Labour's support for the latest raft of "law and order" mea­sures, including the Police and Criminal Crime Bill, prompted the Economist to dub the Tories and Labour, "in Partners in crime."

The conservative bourgeois Economist states what is glaringly obvious, but which is still something that the supposedly Trotskyist Workers Power (WP) group is unable to admit. Their blind faith in Labour is expressed in a wish list of "demands" for a Blair government to implement, such as: "Abolish the Public Order Act, the Police and Criminal Evi­dence Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Official Secrets Act and all re­pressive legislation passed in the name of "national security." WP goes on to call on Labour to "Disarm the police: no plastic bullets, CS gas, riot gear or firearms" (Worker Power, February 1997). Fat chance!

The SWP’s own method of whitewashing the cops. In an article (Soapbox Worker, 8 February) Char­les Neux asks "Are all coppers really bas­tards?" and answers "Not all coppers are necessarily bastards but unless they get out (which happens quite a lot), or rebel collectively (which is very rare), they are all agents of the state, the system and the ruling class."

The SWP’s search for a few good cops is grotesque. In a leaflet titled "The ISO [US affiliate of the British SWP]: looking for a few good cops", of 26 February, our comrades of the New York Spartacist Youth Club wrote:

"According to Molyneux, the SWP/ISO thinks that cops would cease to be 'agents of the state' if they were to 'rebel collectively.' But unlike the craven oppor­tunists of the SWP/SIO, we Spart­acists recognize that when the forces of the repressive state apparatus rebel, they do so as deadly enemies of the work­ing class and minorities."

In September last year the Home Office reported a 170% increase in deaths in police custody in two years! The struggle against racist cop and fascist terror is a vital issue for the working move­ment, whose struggles on picket lines run up against the scabbing cops and courts time and again. These struggles are betrayed by the Labour and trade union misleaders. To smash capitalist state power it is necessary to forge a racially integrated revolutionary party, which acts uncompro­misingly as the tribune of all the oppressed.

Out now!

New Spartacist League pamphlet that counterposes the Trotskyist internationalism of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist) to the right-centrist politics of the Leninist-Trotskyst Tendency lash-up.

20p (8 pages) (Free with subscription)

Order from: Spartacist Publications, PO Box 1041, London NW5 3EU
two weeks earlier.

Skinheads in Berlin's Hellersdorf district

A powerful action which could have ne-

debabel in Munich stood in sharp contrast

done to mobilise the heavy battalions of

labour - and behind

Nazis was evident: up to

frenzy of anti-German chauvinism.

But anti-Semitism is not the exclusive

anti-Semitic

spokesmen who

own racism. As the

who denounced not only

working-class and communist but also

imperialist opposition to their

"tehersranum" ("room to live") expansion plans as part of a "heilbruck." Predictably the British tabloid press

inadequate in their own frenzy of anti-German chauvinism. But anti-Semitism is not the exclusive preserve of German nationalism. Perhaps the Frankfurter Algemene Zeitung might have preferred Riklund to have quoted an anti-Semitic stanza from Kipling, the poet of the British empire, rather than Luther. Britain, like Germany's other imperialist rivals, slammed the doors on Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi horrors and even shipped Jewish refugees off to a concentration camp in the Australian outback.

Today, within the oppressed black majori-

ity in Britain, sinister black nationalist outli-

es like the Fanatical and hàngan's gang in the same anti-Semitic film as the fascist race

terrorists of Combat 18.

In Britain, after a spate of murderous racial attacks on black and Asian in London in 1993, tens of

thousands of young people and anti-racist fighters mobilised in the streets, deter-

mined to halt the fascist British National Party (BNP) scum in their tracks. The reformed Socialist Workers Party and its Anti Nazi League and the Socialist Party (formerly Militant) Youth Against Racism in Europe (YRE) derailed these 250,000 demonstrated with their dead-end strategy calling on the capital city to close down the BNP fascist headquarters. We, like our comrades of the SpAD, fight for trade union/minority mobilisations to crush the fascists now.

February 18 - Emboldened by the German government's attacks on immi-

grants and mass deportations of refugees, with unemployment at its highest rate

since Hitler came to power in 1933, the Nazi "Youth National Democrats" an-

ounced they would stage a race-hate march for "Jobs for Germans First" in the Frohna headquarters. We, like our comrades of the SpAD, fight for trade union/minority mobilisations to crush the fascists now.

FEBRUARY 18 - Emboldened by the German government's attacks on immi-

grants and mass deportations of refugees, with unemployment at its highest rate

since Hitler came to power in 1933, the Nazi "Youth National Democrats" an-

ounced they would stage a race-hate march for "Jobs for Germans First" in the Frohna headquarters. We, like our comrades of the SpAD, fight for trade union/minority mobilisations to crush the fascists now. "Under massive protection of the state, the Nazis wanted to crawl out of their rat holes in order to recruit to their pro-

gramme of venomous anti-Semitism and racism. No German fascist had ever been stabbed to death just days ago by a Nazi gang in Magdeburg.

On one week's notice, several organisations swung into action with calls for demonstrations against the fascists. A call to mobilise at the same time and place where the Nazis intended to start their rally was issued by the Trade Unions Against Racism and Fascism, Anti-Fascist Action and other "antifa" groups. Mean-

while, the Social Democrats (SPD), the ex-Stalinist social-democratic Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) and others appealed to the state to "ban" its Nazi dogs of war, and called for a demonstra-

tion some distance away from the site of the intended Nazi assembly. The SpAD and the Spartakist Youth called on all opponents of Nazi terror to join the former demonstration, at the same time and place when the Nazis intended to mobilise.

The rapidly shifting events and chal-

lenges in the course of building this pro-
test were a test in action of the competing political programmes of the anarchists, the SPD, the PDS and the authentic commu-

nist represented by the SpAD. An 11 February SpAD leaflet emphasised: "Only a unified front action based on the social power of the workers and which defends and draws in all the oppressed and ex-

ploited can stop the Nazi terror, which ultimately is aimed at the organisations of the workers movement itself."

The SpAD countered its call for worker/immigrant mobilisations to ap-

peals to the Fourth Reich by the trade-

union tops and SDS Hellersdorf district mayor Uwe Klein (echoed by local Chris-

tian Democratic [CDU] politicians) to "ban the fascists. Our comrades warn: "We cannot stop the fascists to their heart's content"

against the bourgeois state which protects and uses them..." The only proletarian united front, which the Trotskyists fought for in the '30s against the betrayal of the SPD and against the shameful "social fascism" politics of Stalin/Thälmann, could have prevented the Nazi regime and the Hol-

coust and opened the way to overthrowing the bourgeoisie which Hitler served."
A test of programme in action
As opposition to the Nazi mobilisation mounted throughout Berlin, the government and its mouthpieces in the bourgeois press worked overtime to fuddle and demonise the Nazis' actual victims. The bourgeois press ran lying stories that the Nazis' threatened provocation was cancelled, and Berlin interior minister Schönbohm announced on 13 February that the Nazis would instead rally at an undisclosed outer site under police protection. The SpAd played a critical role in countering the government's cover-up for the Nazis. Our comrades blanketed Humboldt University and some of the heavily integrated factoriaxs in Berlin with a second leaflet calling to "Stop the Nazis!" and warning: "Don't be fooled by any tricks.... Full account about a joint demonstration of thousands of working people and all potential victims of the Nazis must guarantee that there is no place for Nazis in Berlin."

The political battle continued on the morning of 15 February, as our comrades fought to pull together the diverse forces at the site into the largest possible united mobilisation to counter the massive cop presence and the Nazis on the run. This required political combat with the go-nothing PDS/SPD/CDU "stay away" crowd and some chauvinist anti-communist, anarchist types. The SpAd built a substantial contingent and sent out effective "agit-prop" teams to the other, PDS-led demonstration against and appeal for organised united-front action to stop the Nazis.

Bullying the 700 assembled at the PDS' "peaceful, legal" gafisti, our comrades warned against any confidence in the bourgeois state and urged: "Enough hand-waving: speak up for the" - to act - that means to stop the Nazis. That's why we are now leaving, to unite with those at Kaulsdorf train station who want to stop the Nazis."

Our speech hit the crowd like a tidal wave. Scandalously, "Trade Unionists Against Nazis" de-nounced us as "splitters" and declared they would "spontaneously" decide where to go. As we replied that we had no time to talk, our friends at Kaulsdorf train station who want to stop the Nazis."

A pitch battle ensued, as the cops went directly for the anti-fascist protesters' heads. One young woman comrade of the Berlin Spartacist Youth was smashed in the face by a cop and sent to the hospital with a broken nose requiring surgery. We were told that other protesters had been brutally beaten in police vans. Over 104 leftist were arrested. We demand: Drop the charges against all anti-Nazi protesters!

At the time, cops were picking skidmarks up off the platform and moving them into special subway cars and waiting police vans to speed them to safety. Andreas Stor, self-appointed flâneur of the fascist "Young National Democrats", said to a roar of applause at the anti-fascist protest: "We aren't here to show the clean face of Germany, because there isn't any. We aren't here for a 'well-fortified or reformed democracy,' because this bourgeois democracy protects the fascists and heaps up on immigrants and leftists. We're here to stop the fascists!"

Only socialist revolution can eradicate the fascist threat!

Across Europe, racist attacks on immigrants are at the cutting edge of the capitalist rulers' assault on the living standards and unions organisations of the entire working class. The interests of labour and minorities must advance together or they will fall back together.

In Germany, fascist arson attacks against immigrant hostels have become so common that they no longer even get reported unless people are killed. Fascist terror is also on the rise in Italy and France, where Le Pen's National Front (NF) recently won governmental control of yet another southern city. The NF has already been implementing its programme with "ethnic cleansing" and murderous thugs attacks on leftists and immigrants. To combat the fascist threat requires not just militant street actions, although they certainly have their place, but a programme for revolutionary struggle.

The fascists are recruiting precisely because they are the only force which appears to offer a "radical" social programme. The anarchists offer no programme for fighting capitalism, while the bankrupt reformist misleaders - tailed by the centre-ists - seek to divert working-class anger against skyrocketing unemployment into the same anti-immigrant chauvinism pushed by the fascists. We Trotskyists fight for a programme of proletarian revolution to sweep away the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist society internationally. For a Socialist United States of Europe!

This requires an uncompromising fight against the poison of trade unionism which subordinates the working class. Indifference to racial oppression flows directly from a programme of class collaboration with your own bourgeois state. We Trotskyists of the International Communist League fight for a new, revolutionary leadership - a proletarian internationalist Leninist party - to unite the working class in opposition to its class enemy and to fight for new October socialisms, rooted worldwide. Reprinted from Workers Vanguard no 662, 21 February 1997.

MARCH/APRIL 1997
Police attack leftists, protect fascists

Berlin: militant protest spikes Nazi rally

We reprint below an important report of militant struggle against the Nazi vermin in Germany. On 15 February, 2000 demonstrators stopped a Nazi provocation in Hellersdorf, Berlin. Prominent in this successful action were our comrades of the Spartakist Arbeiterpartei Deutsche (SPAD).

On 19 February, a few days after the anti-fascist fighters sent the reactionary scum scurrying for cover, a near-fatal attack was carried out in broad daylight on a PDS bookshop keeper in Marzahn. A fascist clad in leather bomber-jacket and jackboots fired a shotgun three times into the bookseller's back. This cowardly terrorist sneak attack is revenge for the 15 February SpAD statement, urgently calling for the mass mobilisations against them.

Our article highlights how 15 February was a test in action of the competing programmes to fight fascism. Despite the murderous attack on its supporter, the PDS persists in joining the bourgeois chorus against "left-wing violence". A 19 February SpAD statement, urgently calling for workers united-front defence against fascist attacks, noted:

"The grotesque attempt by Gregor Gysi of the PDS to equate 'left' and 'right' extremists is a deadly syllogism which can only strengthen the hand of the bloody capitalist state, which the PDS serves, and which is emboldening the fascists with its mass deportations of immigrants and vicious attacks on black women, minorities and the left. While the PDS beseeches the Fourth Reich to curb the 'excesses' of 'extremists', their sell-out of the DDR and tepid appeal to 'reform' the capitalist system all serve to breed the misery on which the fascist maggots feed. The shameful condemnation by the PDS of the bold leftist action which spiked the Nazi provocation in Hellersdorf and their suicidal appeals to the state to curb its own fascist dogs of war recalls the role of their Stalinist and Social Democratic forebears."

On 3 March, some 5000 Nazis marched through Munich under heavy police protection. This fascist provocation was effectively condoned at the highest levels of the state government, as the Christian Social Union, Bavarian sister party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, joined in condemning an exhibit which was the target of the Nazi rally — on the war crimes of Hitler's Wehrmacht forces during World War II. This was a serious defeat for the working class as a whole.

Responsibility for this defeat rests squarely at the feet of the reformist misleaders — the Social Democrats (SPD) and the DGB trade-union federation tops — and the various centrists who tail continued on page 10

Labour helps Tories to strengthen racist police powers

On 13 February the jury at the inquest into the brutal murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in April 1993 returned a verdict of "unlawful killing in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths". Yet his killers have repeatedly walked free from the courts. During the inquest, the five racist scum, Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, Jamie Acourt and David Norris, sat in court smirking.

At the time of the murder the cops ignored dozens of phone calls which provided the names of the suspects. Instead they investigated the victim, asking Stephen's friends whether he was "involved in any gang or drug dealing" — code-words for criminalising blacks. The racist cops also suppressed a statement by an eyewitness who had seen two of the accused running away from the scene of the murder. After the inquest Stephen's mother, Doreen Lawrence, issued the following trenchant indictment of the police's role:

"The wall of silence was not only in the surrounding area where my son was killed but with the police officers who were supposed to be investigating the crime. Right from the start on the night our boy was murdered, it seemed that in the minds of the police he was only a black boy, so why bother?"

In the wake of the capitalist counter-revolution in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, there has been a sinister rise of fascist terror across Europe. Rising unemployment among Western European youth has gone hand in hand with the brutal superexploitation of dark-skinned immigrant workers. In the absence of mass revolutionary, ie genuinely communist, parties capable of uniting the working class in struggle against the ravages of capitalism, the fascists and other far-right forces have taken advantage of Western Europe's deteriorating social and economic conditions. The capitalist state has fuelled these forces through repressive laws against workers and immigrants. The murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 was part of a wave of racist and fascist terror, which in London included the killing of Roland Adams, Rohit Duggal and Ruhullah Aramesh. What is needed to crush the fascist vermin is mass trade-union/minority mobilisations.

The Lawrence family initiated a private prosecution after the public prosecutor halted criminal proceedings supposedly because of "insufficient evidence". But the private prosecution also collapsed when the judge ruled that the evidence of Stephen's friend, Dawnye Brooks was "inadmissible". Dawnye was with Stephen when he was stabbed and he himself just continued on page 9

MARCH/APRIL 1997