Reaganites Squirm Over Iran

Bonzo's
Gonzo Diplomacy

On November 9 the Israeli cabinet issued a terse statement, without further details, that one Mordechai Vanunu was being held somewhere in Israel. Later, police and prison authorities were quoted as saying that "the suspect" was not in a regular jail or detention center. The London Guardian (10 November) reported: "Mr Vanunu is expected to face a secret trial in which neither the precise charge nor the final outcome will be made public on the grounds of national security."

Mordechai Vanunu is a 31-year-old technician employed for nearly ten years at Israel's Dimona nuclear facility. His "crime" against "national security"? He was the source for a blockbuster expose splashed across the front page of the London Sunday Times (3 October) under the headline: "Revealed: the secrets of Israel's nuclear arsenal." The Sunday Times article trumpeted that it was "the first direct evidence that Israel has the bomb." More to the point, it has many, many bombs.

Vanunu had been dismissed along with 180 others in a cutback a year ago and subsequently left Israel, appearing in London in late September to sell his story (reportedly for $456,000). Shortly after he finished his business with the Sunday Times on September 30, Vanunu dropped from sight. There were reports he had been kidnapped by the Mossad (the Israeli CIA) in Britain, or alternatively lured onto a yacht in the Mediterranean, and secretly brought back to Israel. In any case, this Deep Throat seems to have been silenced. It's hardly new news that Israel has the bomb. As far back as 1974, the CIA had noted in a memorandum that "Israel already has produced nuclear weapons" (New York Times, 29 Octo-ber). Indeed, a public United Nations report last year estimated Israel's nuclear bomb capability at "15 to 20 warheads." The real bombshell in the Sunday Times exposé was the revelation that the plutonium production at Dimona has been 40 kilograms a year, a figure far above all previous estimates. This means that "at least 100 and as many as 200 nuclear weapons of varying destructive power have been assembled" by Israel. Two hundred nuclear weapons? This would make tiny Israel the world's sixth-largest nuclear power after the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. And it means they've probably got more nukes per capita than anyone. The article also presents evidence that the Israelis might have thermonuclear H-bombs, far more destructive than A-bombs. How did they get them, and what do they intend to do with this arsenal? A dozen or so A-bombs could nuke every Arab capital and make Hitler's Holocaust look like child's play. Anyhow, the Jerusalem regime has always managed to get away with dropping murderous conventional bombs on peoples it didn't like, from Iraq to Tunisia. What's going on here? Vanunu's story raises plenty of questions, and Rupert Murdoch's scribbling is no paragon of accuracy (they bought the bogus Hitler diaries, for instance). But 200 nukes would mean the warmongers in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem have a much bigger target in mind: Russia. Is this a joint operation with Washington in preparation for nuking the Soviets? (They're already in league with the White House in secretly supplying the Iranian ayatol­lahs with American arms.) Or are the Israelis preparing to go solo? The

Israel-U.S. alliance aimed at Soviet Union. American F-15, above, used by Israelis in 1,500-mile bombing raid on Tunisia last year.

Was El Al Bomb a Mossad Plot?

Zionist madmen could very easily—and perhaps deliberately—trip over the trip wire for World War III.

Secrets of Dimona

In the late 1950s, Israel with the help of the French government (her ally in the Suez War against Egypt) began construction of an alleged "textile" plant in the Negev desert near the town of Dimona. When an American U-2 spy plane discovered in 1960 that the Dimona plant was really a nuclear reactor, Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion swore that it would be used only for "peaceful" purposes, and even agreed to allow international inspectors into the plant to verify his claims. Over the years stories circulated about the Israeli nuclear "bomb in the basement." Supposedly it was "only a screwdriver away" from being operational. Now it appears that they have been turning those screws all along.

According to Vanunu, alongside the "peaceful" reactor at Dimona there is a building known as "Machon 2," whose innocuous floors above ground serve to hide a six-level concrete underground bunker. Here, spent fuel rods from the reactor are processed in order to separate out the vital plutonium for making A-bombs. False walls continued on page 8
Get Your Class-Struggle Defense Notes!

The Partisan Defense Committee is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal defense organization in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League. In the tradition of the International Labor Defense (ILD) under James P. Cannon, its founder and first secretary from 1925 to 1928, the PDC has revived the tradition of monthly stipends to class-war prisoners as a message to those whose freedom is the cause of the workers movement that they are not forgotten.

Class-Struggle Defense Notes, the newsletter of the PDC, contains letters from class-war prisoners and reports on those cases and causes of vital importance to the workers movement. Help publicize these cases. Get your copy now! Circulate it in your union locals and community organizations. Help us reach thousands of new readers. Build a mass organization of class-struggle defense. Send your contribution to the PDC and receive a subscription to Class-Struggle Defense Notes. For a single copy of issue number 2, send $3.75 to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.

The Partisan Defense Committee has just published the second issue of its newsletter, Class-Struggle Defense Notes, a 24-page report on the work of the PDC during the past four months. From behind prison walls Black Panther leader Geronimo Pratt wrote about the importance of the PDC:

"How do you like my new typewriter? It's really something especially for an "01 timer." Still learning to operate it properly so bear with me. Hope these letters be getting to you. Anyway, what i want to address is the importance of the Partisan Defense Comm. to prisoners who cannot get key documents, papers, books and generally the basic information that one needs in order to grow and develop in every way possible under these adverse conditions. There are so many "stranded" Brothas and Sistas thruout these dungeons who are additionally deprived of certain needs because of political reasons... and when assistance is given from the P.D.C. and other such concerns, it definitely makes a clear and inspirational difference. I have nothing but praise for such deeply rooted humane gestures which is manifested in such profound collectives as the P.D.C., and want to encourage more and more exchange between "the streets" and the prison for it is essential to the survival of the entire community that these compassionate acts continue to be realized. For me personally, when I received my first emebrace from the P.D.C., it reminded me of a certain night while I was locked deep within Solcom's hole (A-A) back in '73, I had not seen any outside nor any artificial light for a long time, then suddenly while doing Yoga, I began to see out of the corner of my eye, a vivid reflection of the full moon thru a cracked glass across the catwalk from the cage i was in... The feelings were too immense to try and state here, but the warmth, when I received your helping hand was very much the same. The Ray of Light still shines...from the Torch of the P.D.C., from every heart that repels injustice and every hand that seeks to slay the vultures that prey on the blood of the people...the Torch warms as it enlightens...pass it on and on and on. I Salute you, geronimo"
The Trotskyites again betray the struggle for disarmament

So it was not surprising that the Trotskyites attacked the Reykjavik summit has served to cloud the bilateral nuclear disarmament clouded the perception of the concentration of the crisis. However, during World War I, Lenin denounced pacific disarmament delusions. A “bureaucratic armistice against the proletariat is one of the biggest, fundamental and cardinal facts of modern capitalist society. And in face of this fact, revolutionaries and Social-Democrats are urged to demand “disarmament!” That is tantamount to complete abandonment of the class-struggle point of view, to resignation of all revolutionary war. Our slogan must be: arm, strengthen the proletariat defenc, exterminate and disarm the bourgeoisie. . . . Only after the proletariat has disarmed the bourgeoisie will it be able to come all armaments to the scrap-heap.

The “Disarmament” slogan (October 1916)

On “peaceful coexistence” with imperialism, Lenin would certainly qualify as a “crazy” in the CP’s book. In March 1919 he proclaimed: “The existence of the Soviet Republic side by side with imperialist states for any length of time is inconceivable. In the end one or the other must triumph.” It was J.V. Stalin who proclaimed the myth of “peaceful coexistence,” a corollary of his anti-Marxist dogma of building “socialism in one country.” The American program of world socialist revolution, on which the Communist International was founded, is based on the principle “to the export of revolution,” even Stalin didn’t dare proclaim that until a decade after he had extended political expropriating the Soviet working class. In 1936, after Stalin was elected to the highest position of power, and prepared to behead the Spanish Revolution, the Great Organizer of Defeats told an American bourgeois “people are divided” and that that he wanted to go out of all class struggle. So it was not surprising that the Trotskyites attacked the Reykjavik summit served to cloud the perception of the concentration of the crisis. However, during World War I, Lenin denounced pacific disarmament delusions. A “bureaucratic armistice against the proletariat is one of the biggest, fundamental and cardinal facts of modern capitalist society. And in face of this fact, revolutionaries and Social-Democrats are urged to demand “disarmament!” That is tantamount to complete abandonment of the class-struggle point of view, to resignation of all revolutionary war. Our slogan must be: arm, strengthen the proletariat defenc, exterminate and disarm the bourgeoisie. . . . Only after the proletariat has disarmed the bourgeoisie will it be able to come all armaments to the scrap-heap.

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SAN FRANCISCO—Hugh Smith is a firefighter, an ex-Marine who was commissioned for fighting racist attacks. But this is racist, capitalist America, and Smith is one of a relative handful of black firemen in the city run by Democratic mayor “Dixie Dianne” Feinstein. When Smith confronted a white racist fireman who called him a “nigger” in his station house last June, Smith’s superiors covered up the incident and ordered him to lie about it. When Smith blew the lid off, he was charged with making a “false report” and had a “letter of reprimand” in his file—to be removed in six months if he “keeps out of trouble”! This is an outrage! As Smith bitterly commented, “A guy attacks me racially, and they put me on trial. I feel I was a victim.” (Chronic, October 23, 1980)

During the Fire Commission’s farcical hearing, the three officers involved in the cover-up defended themselves by claiming Smith agreed to go along with it. When the black fireman first demanded action from the superiors, one simply ignored him while another tried to pretend he was “kidding.” Smith testified that he was ordered to report that a hand injury received in his scuffle with the racist resulted from a fall in the shower. The racist, Richard Fitzpatrick, said he used the word “nigger” frequently to include people other than blacks and defined the word as the lowest element of any race or people.

Even the commission was astounded by his brazen claim he meant no racist insult. This disgusting racial epithet is a fighting battle hymn. It is the language of the Lynch rope. Smith’s response—that of any self-respecting black, Polish, or any other—was that positive.

Two of the three officers involved in the cover-up ended up with short suspensions for “a slight overstepping of reprimand” to be removed in six months, but unlike Smith’s without the insulting “stay out of trouble” condition. Fitzpatrick was suspended for 30 days. This token punishment of the racists and egregious slap at the victim gives the green light to racists throughout the city. Smith’s case has become a focal point of racist mobilization in the department. At the Fire Commission hearings, white firemen sat on one side, blacks on the other. A statement circulated by John Fishery, president of the San Francisco Fire Chiefs Association, and signed by 34 of the 62 chiefs, denounced the token punishments meted out to the four whites as “extraordinarily unfair and inconsidera­bly harsh,” and Smith’s punishment as “absurdly lenient!”

Far from being an isolated episode (as Feinstein tried to claim, blaming “a few bad apples”), the incident exposed the pervasive racism in the city’s fire department. 85 percent white in this multiracial city with large minority populations. Today there are only 79 blacks in the force of some 1,500, which has long been a job-ruled, racist, white, largely Irish preserve, with jobs passing on to relatives. A lawsuit is currently in the process of being settled, challenging the civil service tests used to hire and promote firemen as racially and sexually biased (93 percent of whites and 55 percent of blacks passed the last one). As Robert Detmonos, a member of the Firefighters Association, told a Board of Supervisors committee hearing in October, in San Francisco, the job began when San Francisco’s first black firefighter was called a racist name his first day on the job in 1939 and has continued ever since.

Hugh Smith got a first-hand taste of what can be expected from the bosses’ state. In this city it’s run by Feinstein, who flew the Confederate flag of slavery and KKK terror in front of her city hall for two years before the Spartacist League and Labor Black League for Social Defense tore it down. Her cops posted a Nazi swastika poster in a police van at an anti-apartheid demonstration in 1985. Democratic Party administrations have been doing the dirty work for Reagan in cities around the country—like black Democrat Wilson Goode, mayor of Philadelphia, who ordered the 1985 MOVE massacre in which eleven black people, including five kids, were murdered. While the courts may order some cosmetic changes in the SF fire department’s discriminatory hiring practices, the state generally takes an interest in “equal employment” in the labor movement only as a cynical cover for union-busting schemes.

Spartacist League maintains that a vital stake in fighting to integrate the workforce, including the firemen who (unlike the racist union-busting cops) are part of the working class and perform vital social services. We fight for revolution­ary integrationism, including jobs for all, union-run special recruitment and training programs for minorities and women, an end to racial and sexual discrimination in hiring and on the job. It will take an integrated, class-struggle leadership of Bay Area labor to clean out the bigots from the station house to the suburbs and crush the KKK race­terrorists. That was shown in practice in 1980, when the 1,200-strong ANCAN mobilization led by the Spartacist League stopped the Nazi scare from “celebrating” Hitler’s birthday in the San Francisco Civic Center. And this means workers parties to stand against the capitalist parties, for a workers government to put an end to the split, capitalist system of exploitation.

Again, CP Sabotages...

(continued from page 3)

liberators. But Stalin did everything he could to sabotage the offensive, divert­ ing crucial forces from the drive on War­saw, which ultimately stopped the Red Army on the Vistula (see “The Bolshe­viks and the ‘Export of Revolution’,” Spartan­ nar 27-28, Summer 1980).

In continuing the methods of the amal­gam, the CP tries to equate us with every manner of mime, from the Soviet sect, such as the social-democratic “Spark” group and the “Marxist­Leninist Party” (MLP), erstwhile ac­tivist of the Enver Hoxha Albania. The MLP would certainly object to being labeled “Trotskyite”—indeed the various ex-Maoists groups are merely Stalin­ists without a country. And in treacher­ously equating the USSR with the USA as two imperialistic “superpowers,” they sac­rifice on the defense of the gains of the Bolsheviks’ October Revolution. West, of course, doesn’t mention that our article prominently declared: “Defend the Soviet Union!”

In fact, West doesn’t mention defense of the Soviet Union—and for good reason. West tries to claim the Soviet army to be “the high command,” the armament proposals of CPSU general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. But we’ve pointed out before how the CPSU’s “dilute” illusions have led to aban­don defense of the Soviet Union on several occasions. For example, when the KAL 007 jetliner was shot down overallbacking some of the most sensitive Soviet military installations in the Far East, the Daily World (2 September 1983) published a banner headline: “Soviets Deny Downing Plane.” They not only invented a Moscow denouement, but refused to believe the Soviet Union would defend itself against the uniden­tified intruder.

What about when the New York Times (2 November 1984) asked: “Why was a KAL 007 jetliner shot down over the suburbs and crush the KKK race­terrorists. That was shown in practice in 1980, when the 1,200-strong ANCAN mobilization led by the Spartacist League stopped the Nazi scare from “celebrating” Hitler’s birthday in the San Francisco Civic Center. And this means workers parties to stand against the capitalist parties, for a workers government to put an end to the split, capitalist system of exploitation.

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LONDON—On November 6, one of the worst helicopter crashes in history took place just off the Shetland Isles in the North Sea. Fourteen oil workers working on the offshore oil rigs, died as their Chinook helicopter founded and broke up in the waters of the North Sea, where you're lucky to last two minutes in the near-Arctic conditions before freezing to death. Miraculously, two survived, by clinging to a piece of wreckage and a dinghy and being fortuitously picked up by a coast guard chopper on a training flight within minutes of the crash. Otherwise, they too would have frozen and drowned.

The ill-fated Chinook helicopter was owned by Robert ("Captain Bob") Maxwell, darling of treacherous Labour leader Neil Kinnock and owner of a number of daily newspapers. His recently acquired International Helicopters has taken over much of the work involved in ferrying oil workers to and from the various rigs and depots dotted around the North Sea. Having sent these men to their deaths, the despicable Labourite millionaire then launched a fund drive for the bereaved families through his national newspaper chain. Truly, blood money!

"Accidents will happen," the bosses said. "They do happen; why do they happen?" The drive for profit that is intrinsic to capitalism involves systematic neglect, non-existent safety, and wanton murder. Maintenance engineers insisted on delaying the fatal flight when they discovered an oil leak before its takeoff, and an eyewitness to the crash on a nearby fishing vessel saw oil dripping from the rotor blades fall off just before the Chinook started its dive into the sea.

A left-liberal expert describes the Chinook as an "engineering nightmare." In February 1983 this same chopper had to make a forced landing when a gearbox bearing failed. Only two of the three improvements recommended in its wake by safety experts—one of the rotor blades fell off just before the Chinook started its dive into the sea.

Conditions on the North Sea oil rigs epitomise the total disdain for the lives and welfare of the workforce that is characteristic of capitalist exploitation. In April 1977, "Red" Adair, the American oil rig troubleshooter, said: "Whatever precautions are taken, there'll be a disaster in the North Sea, sooner or later. There are no proper facilities for coping with it" (New Yorker, 27 January). The North Sea oilfield has been plagued with disaster from its inception. In December 1985, 13 men were killed when the Sea Gem, one of the first drilling barges, capsized and sank. Several weeks after Adair's prediction, Well 14, on Ekofisk Bravo in the Norwegian sector of the oilfield, blew out. The oil companies had previously rejected Adair's proposal for a specialised firefighting vessel on the grounds of expense. North Sea oil adds something like £2 million (almost $3 million) per hour to the coffers of the oil magnates—every penny of it leaked out of the blood of the workforce. The workers, many of them highly skilled and specialised, work straight 12-hour shifts 14 days at a stretch. (You can get a taste of the Dante-like infernal scene, minus the high-tech, from the Sean Connery film Outland.) They are forced to work on slippery platforms blown backwards and forwards by the wind, in freezing cold, with small, prisonlike regime—booze and women are banned, newspapers are generally old, their only source of relaxation videotapes. Except in the sleeping areas, the deafening din and vibration of the rigs is everywhere; there are no privacy. And, unlike onshore oil refineries, workers can't run away from a fire; they can only jump into the surrounding icy sea.

And the helicopters—mostly Chinooks and the smaller Sikorski S-61—would one expect the notoriously rapacious oil companies to give to their workers? The North Sea helicopter disaster was fundamentally of a piece with the Kinross gold mine catastrophe in South Africa a couple of months ago, in which nearly 200 black miners were asphyxiated in a mile underground. For the capitalist bloodsuckers, the bottom line—literally—is their profit statement at the end of the fiscal year; and to that end, human life is expendable. In particular, the English-centred bourgeoisie has routinely treated Scottish working people as expendable, be it as cannon fodder in the Scottish regiments or as workers on North Sea oil rigs.

The oil workers have considerable industrial muscle. The nascent South African black National Union of Mine-workers organised a powerful memorial strike in outrage over the Kinross massacre. But to the extent the North Sea oil workers are united, they have only the pathetic ASTMS, which organises primarily white-collar technocrats. Shortly before the recent crash, government official Norman Marguerite wrote to "interested parties" (no doubt including the ASTMS leadership) expressing gratitude for their "patience" over long-postponed reforms in safety conditions.

Union-busting paves the way to industrial murder. Reagan's smashing of the PATCO air traffic controllers union led directly to a sharp rise in air fatalities. Had the ASTMS struck in support of the heroic British coal miners strike—when oil-fired power stations played a crucial strikebreakering role—they would have made the difference. In the deep-sixing "Iron Lady" Thatcher's, whose revenues depend heavily on North Sea oil. For the oil companies' survival and working conditions! For a strong industrial union of North Sea oil workers under class leadership!

From Whitehall to the City of London, the ruling class has seen in the North Sea oilfield a source of profit that would somehow save squeezed-out British capitalism indifferently from economic impotence. The oil field is the one region of Scotland that due to oil has had some measure of alleviation from the all-around economic devastation—finding that this was transient and illusory. As the oil industry goes into decline, it is estimated that 40,000 jobs will be lost, ripping the heart out of this enclave of Scottish "prosperity." It's no accident that a significant number of those killed aboard the Chinook came from Fife, once a rich coalfield, since turned into industrial desert. Acting out a capitalist sequel to the Highland Clearances, Scotland (like Wales) has been viciously ravaged and ripped off by the British bourgeoisie in its epoch of decay. And look what British imperialism is doing to the Irish working class.

Marxists stand for the right of self-determination for the Celtic fringe. We do not, however, urge a course of separatism. The working proletariat has been in the vanguard of the working class movement in the British Isles. The working class is the only force in the world that can unite the English working class with the British working class—except to fight the British ruling class. Having stabbed the miners in the back, "Judas" Kinnock goes off on a pilgrimage to the Berlin Wall to laud the Nazi effort to fight off the Red Army liberation of Berlin and then lays a wreath for the racist cop killed during the police invasion of London's Totten­ham ghetto last year!

A single struggle for social justice can unite the English working class with the downtrodden peoples of the Celtic fringe, and with the oppressed and Asian minorities—who all have good reason to hate and fight the British ruling class. After all, that requires the forging of a Leninist-Trotskyist vanguard party through splitting the working class. The Party of the pro-capitalist tops. Such a party will act as tribunal of the oppressed, mobilising the working class to sharpen the class struggle against the society behind the social power of the proletari­ at and finally sweeping the racist bums of this squalid ruling class into the dustbin of history.
The October 10 earthquake in El Salvador struck a heavy blow at the poor and working people of this land who have already withstood six years of civil war. This was no "act of God" divorced from the class struggle: it is the blunt clamps who are homeless today, the rich are not sleeping in the streets! In fact, rapacious Salvadoran capitalists and their bloodthirsty military guard dogs used the opportunity to continue pillaging the country and persecuting working-class fighters. A revolutionary workers party would respond to this disaster by mobilizing the Salvadoran masses against their utterly corrupt and cynical rulers. In Nicaragua, Somozas' looting of relief supplies fueled outrage ultimately leading to the July 1979 Sandinista-led popular insurrection that sent the dictator packing. In El Salvador, where a militant workers movement is recovering its strength after several years underground, the earthquake could be a detonator for proletarian revolution sending shock waves throughout the region.

Within minutes of the first tremor, half the capital lay in ruins. While the Salvadoran government of U.S.-puppet president José Napoleon Duarte tried to downplay the destruction, relief officials estimate that as many as 3,000 were killed, 20,000 injured and 300,000 left homeless (SALPRESS, 13 October). More than 500 died in the Rubén Dario office building, condemned after the last quake but never ordered razed by then-church. Some 30,000 homes were destroyed, not counting the rudi mud and adobe structures of the tugurios (slums) which were especially hard hit. Compared to last year's Mexican quake, whose force was over a hundred times greater, El Salvador was double that in Mexico City. The astounding toll of homeless victims reveals the precarious existence eeked out by the poor and working class who live in shacks tettering along river gullies and clinging to mud flanks. As more than 1,000 aftershocks and torrential rainstorms battered survivors, San Salvador became a veritable hell on earth.

This disaster comes in the midst of the U.S.-backed war to crush a workers and peasants insurgency seeking to throw off the yoke of more than half a century of bloody military rule. Kill-crazy right-wing death squads and uniformed repressive forces have slaughtered more than 61,000 civilians, and in the last couple years murderous governmental aerial bombardment combined with frequent army "search and destroy" sweeps have created an internal refugee population of about 500,000 living in and around the capital. With half the population either unemployed or unemployed and the economy mired in depression, the outlook for the Salvadoran masses was catastrophic even before the October 10 earthquake. Their experience since then proves that the class struggle is not suspended for natural disasters; the resulting chaos and victimization of the dispossessed only intensifies it.

The government "relief" operation strips bare the brutality of realities of class oppression in El Salvador. In Mexico after last year's killer quake, the military went through the motions of aiding the victims. In El Salvador, the army has done nothing outside the bounds of the bombing and psychological warfare (center of the CIA's contra running-operation) and protecting government warehouses. Soldiers watched with cold disdain, fining the triggers of their M16s while Salvadoran and international volunteers feverishly searched for survivors. Treasury Police chief General Rinaldo Golcher told Newday (13 October, "The men are here to keep order." The dust had barely settled before government death squads resumed their kidnapping and killing. Among the fatalities were seven members of a refugee organization and Francisco Méndez, an electrical worker of the STECEL union shot by the army while working as a brigadista aiding quake victims.

At the airport, the army deliberately delayed airlifts (needed by thousands) and refused to bring back 20 fired union militants. As for reconstruction, the government death squads have already withstood six years of bloody military rule. As for reconstruction, some 50,000 homes may be rebuilt as wealthy landlords reclaim the meager parcels on which the poor have lived for years under the 1938 Urban Reform Act.

As the initial shock of the earthquake wears off, anger is mounting over the criminal exploitation of the relief operation. On November 11 students burned an effigy of Uncle Sam and shouted "Duarte assurio!" when the puppet president tried to set foot on the University of El Salvador to "evaluate damage" from the quake. "Duarte, you have hurt the university more than the earthquake did," came the reply. That night the campus was shut down in 1980 under the Duarte junta after scores of students were murdered by a police massacre.

The Salvadoran masses who have lived through the bloody civil war and this last natural disaster; the resulting chaos of bloody military rule, massacre of the insatiable local bourgeoisie and the insatiable military.

For Workers Revolution Towards Liberty and Equality!

During times of crisis nationalists and reformists rally "round the flag, submerging the class struggle in the name of "national unity." In the wake of the terrible October 10 earthquake the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and the guerrillas' Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) declared a unilateral truce. Having earlier canceled the "dialogue" at Sesori by militarily occupying the site, the government responded by increasing military operations to "clear the road" for private construction projects or "sell" areas for the military. Duarte meanwhile, turned coordination of external disaster aid over to the private sector, partly out of recognition of widespread government corruption and partly to appease the ultratag. The businessmen chosen for the task are leaders of the Salvadoran Foundation for Development, a group directly linked with the U.S. extermination campaigns in the countryside through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Not surprisingly, with this Reagan-style "magic of the marketplace" scant aid reached the victims. Most international donations were siphoned off for private construction projects or hoarded by the army. Striking personnel at the Policlinica Salvadororea, who worked around the clock performing surgery in the hospital parking lot, complained that medicines were siphoned off by the military hospital. And with mass starvation looming, the Christian Democratic regime announced it would sell 2,000 tons of wheat donated by the government of Japan. Meanwhile, with more than 30,000 phone lines down, the military (under the aegis of ANT) threatened to refuse to bring back 20 fired technicians, instead contracting a foreign firm. And the ANDA waterworks, facing urgent repairs to hundreds of broken mains, advertised for new workers rather than rehire 236 fired union militants. As for reconstruction, some 50,000 homes may be rebuilt as wealthy landlords reclaim the meager parcels on which the poor have lived for years under the 1938 Urban Reform Act.

As the initial shock of the earthquake wears off, anger is mounting over the criminal exploitation of the relief operation. On November 11 students burned an effigy of Uncle Sam and shouted "Duarte assurio!" when the puppet president tried to set foot on the University of El Salvador to "evaluate damage" from the quake. "Duarte, you have hurt the university more than the earthquake did," came the reply. That night the campus was shut down in 1980 under the Duarte junta after scores of students were murdered by a police massacre.

The Salvadoran masses who have lived through the bloody civil war and this last natural disaster; the resulting chaos of bloody military rule, massacre of the insatiable local bourgeoisie and the insatiable military.
exposing the government’s criminal food policies and insisted: “When neither is nor can be any other means of combating unemployment and crises than the class struggle of the revolutionary proletariat against the entire capitalist system.”

—V. I. Lenin, “Review of Home Affairs” (October 1901)

The suffering of the hundreds of thousands of homeless in El Salvador will not be alleviated by a truce, but through mobilizing the urban poor and the peasants behind the workers movement in revolutionary struggle. Over the last two years, the Salvardoran workers have repeatedly taken to the streets in massive demonstrations and work stops. September saw a “broad movement of labor solidarity” showing “increased class consciousness” (Anonymous, 8 A) which was supported by construction workers, hospital workers and workers at the CIRCA textile plant, who won their economic demands after a month on strike. On September 19 phone workers, stopped work for three hours, disrupting communications from Duarte’s “peace” charade in Sesori. On October 1 and 2 more than 15,000 telephone workers in El Salvador’s capital walked out. And on October 4, 5,000 people from around the country went through the streets of San Salvador, demands being for a “political solution to the national conflict and the demands of the workers.”

What “negotiated solution” can there be with the arrogant Salvadoran ruling class, which doesn’t even compensate a worker-peasant uprising in the bloody massacre of 1932 without calling in the Yankees; with the racist exploiters who today employ psychopathic killers like D’Aubuisson so they can dispose of the “Indian” toilers like cattle! Communist leader Farabundo Martí understood in 1932: “In the events that followed, Salvadoran workers and peasants were tried by power from all of us, we will always be their slaves.” Martí’s battle cry was for “All power to the workers, peasants and soldiers council!” The FDR/FMLN nationalist-reformists despair about making a revolution because as nationalism they have no perspective of international class struggle. They look instead to “progressive” bourgeois governments of the Contadora group—like Mexico, whose PRI rulers fear the contagion of social revolution could spread from Central America to their own Mexico.

In the U.S. the fake “solidarity” unions are all the same. The union bosses were very Leyton. Never in my life had I been in a jail for any reason. I never belonged to any political party. I’ve never been conned with anyone, except in the struggle for the workers.

When we arrived at the Treasury Police, I was taken before Colén Golcher. He was very annoyed: he told me to show him my paperwork or I would be thrown in prison. At that point I didn’t know that my ASTTEL colleagues had declared a work stoppage, and also that all the radio stations in El Salvador were strongly criticizing my capture. Colonel Golcher told me that I could go home, but that my sons would remain there and that they would hand them over to me in the afternoon. Well, from there we went to the Roma center where the compañeras were meeting. With a great spirit, they told me that they were going to continue on strike until my sons were released.

We went to a congress that FENASTRAS [National Federation of Salvadoran Workers] was holding in a hotel in the capital. Then some Americans accompanied us to the Treasury Police at about five in the afternoon. When we arrived, instead of releasing my sons, they gave me a notification saying that they would be there for 15 days. Possibly during that day that my sons were there, the brilliant idea occurred to them of framing them up in the kidnapping of Colonel Napoleon Avalos. The next day when my wife and I came, my sons didn’t recognize us. They were quite drugged. So I called a press conference and reported that they were torturing them, they were dragging them.

More than 500 trade unionists and other victims of rightist repression in El Salvador are imprisoned under the dictatorial decrees of President José Napoleón Duarte. Among them are the two sons of the Association of Salvadoran Typographic Workers (ASTTEL) secretary Humberto Centeno. The seizure of Centeno and his sons José and Jaime by a death squad of plainclothes police in November 1985 provoked a national strike by the 7,000 ASTTEL members. Although the media was not allowed to search for or monitoring the capture of the prisoners, and as in El Salvador there is so much unemployment, everyone initially was afraid for the safety of the prisoners. Nevertheless, the very hunger as well as the economic crisis that all Salvadorans suffer led us to form associations. From the beginning [in 1984] we weren’t going to be an association that organized fiestas or held lotteries. A series of strikes and police repression occurred—at least by ASTTEL, as well as in the Post Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture and with the unions of workers. The protests were called—at least by ASTTEL, as well as in the Post Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture and with the unions of workers. The protests were called—at least by ASTTEL, as well as in the Post Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture and with the unions of workers. The protests were called—at least by ASTTEL, as well as in the Post Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture and with the unions of workers. The protests were called—at least by ASTTEL. They were my sons. My eldest son (José) is 21 and the younger (Jaime) 18. When I told them that these were my sons, they told me that they should accompany them too. So we left my home in Cojutepeque. They put us face down. They threatened us. The treatment was very very: “Quarantine Nicaraugua” Mondale and to “progressive” union bureaucrats such as the National Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, which voted at the October 1985 AFL-CIO convention for a treach­ erous negotiated settlement in El Salvador and Nicaragua—ie., the FDR/FMLN nationalist-reformists despair about making a revolution because they have no perspective of international class struggle. They look instead to “progressive” bourgeois governments of the Contadora group—like Mexico, whose PRI rulers fear the contagion of social revolution could spread from Central America to their own Mexico.

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Bargain with the contra killers! The Trotskyists of the Spartacist League call instead for a military victory for the leftest insurgents in El Salvador, and to de­ fend, complete and extend the Nicara­ guan Revolution. We stand for a clear fight against Duarte’s death squad “democracy” and its Republican and Democratic paymasters, for a class­ struggle workers party and concrete ac­ tions of labor solidarity: hot-cargo arms to El Salvador, for material aid to defend Nicaragua, for labor strikes against a U.S. invasion of Central America.

The San Salvador disaster could be a turning point for the Salvadoran revo­ lution, much as the 1972 Managua earthquake was in Nicaragua. Ten thousand people died there, and a million were made homeless. The center of Managua was leveled. International aid poured in. Somozas and his minions saw in the catastrophe a chance to make immense profits. Through ruthless land speculation, raking in huge loans and stealing international relief aid, El Jefe and his pals made millions from the suffering of the Nicaraguan people. But the incred­ ible greed and cruelty of these blood­ suckers fueled the Sandinista rebellion against the Sorosis, or Sorosis’ tyranny. In El Salvador today, the avarice of the bourgeoisie and the oligarchy (witness the front man Duarte must spark prol­ etarian revolution throughout Central America to bring this bastards down.

**Sons of Salvadoran Unionist Jailed and Tortured**

Free José and Jaime Centeno!

More than 500 trade unionists and other victims of rightist repression in El Salvador are imprisoned under the dictatorial decrees of President José Napoleón Duarte. Among them are the two sons of the Association of Salvadoran Typographic Workers (ASTTEL) secretary Humbero Centeno. The seizure of Centeno and his sons José and Jaime by a death squad of plainclothes police in November 1985 provoked a national strike by the 7,000 ASTTEL members. Although the media was not allowed to search for or monitoring the capture of the prisoners, and as in El Salvador there is so much unemployment, everyone initially was afraid for the safety of the prisoners. Nevertheless, the very hunger as well as the economic crisis that all Salvadorans suffer led us to form associations. From the beginning [in 1984] we weren’t going to be an association that organized fiestas or held lotteries. A series of strikes and police repression occurred—at least by ASTTEL, as well as in the Post Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture and with the unions of workers.

José and Jaime Centeno in Mariona prison, May 1986.

From then on, we waged a hard campaign. They felt obliged, for the first time in 15 years, to allow us to see our sons. About three days later, they invited the national press on the condition that they take pictures with­ out asking questions. It seemed strange to me that my sons appeared in those photos wearing jackets. Later, when they were in Mariona, they told me that they had put the jackets on them because they had scars from electric shocks on their arms. The important thing was the sentiment of solidarity of all the workers of El Salvador, of all the people. The telecommunication workers felt that they were trying to black­ mail me, and therefore the whole union, so we continued on strike some 19 days. In November, my sons will have been held prisoner for one year, unjustly. As Salvadorans, we don’t find that strange, since for more than 50 years they have been violating our human rights. Al­ though my sons are in Mariona, and although they have broken up a home, they haven’t lowered the sentiments to continue struggling in favor of the workers, not only the telecommunications workers, but all the Salvadoran workers. After the capture of my two sons, our work has become greater, 100 percent more. We hope for the day when all workers unite, and that is one of the aspirations of many Salvadorans, so that they re­ spect us as human beings.
Zionist Madmen... (continued from page 1)

hid the elevators to the secret underground factory from the prying eyes of international inspectors. Vanunu gave the Sunday Times more than 60 photographs of the ultra-secret bunker, one showing a component of lithium deuteride (for a thermonuclear bomb with the force of "hundreds of kilotons"). His account was double- and triple-checked by nuclear scientists in Britain and the U.S.

The article noted that one would expect "bigger gaps" in the knowledge of "a mere technician," but this might be explained by the fact that he worked at Dimona for nearly a decade. How come he was left alone to photograph the entire secret complex (there are no people in his photos)? The Sunday Times explanation was that British scientists and control room technicians are often freely to roam around nuclear plants alone to "follow up alarms." Reputable scientists said it would have been possible to secretly upgrade the original Dimona reactor from 26 megawatts capacity to the 150 megawatts needed to produce so much plutonium. But other questions remain—e.g., why did the usually efficient Shin Bet (the Israeli FBI) let Vanunu out of the country shortly after his dismissal, and how did he smuggle out his film?

The story has its bizarre aspects. We are told that while working at Dimona, Vanunu "became a member of the Israeli Communist Party and was active in pro-Palestinian demonstrations" (New York Times, 10 November). Also, he was reportedly "modeling naked for drawing classes at Beersheba University," in a small desert town where most of the Arabs are pro-Palestinian Beduins. A girlfriend says he "volunteered to be laid off." He then went to Australia, as a handyman at an Anglican church (where Vanunu was converting to Christianity), who persuaded him to tell his story to the press. Guerrero wanted money, but Vanunu told Newsweek, "I'm doing it for peace."

Not surprisingly, the New York Times (29 October) reports "there is a school of thought among military analysts in Israel that suggests the entire nuclear infrastructure, and then the U.S. came in, with secret help from the West Germans. In 1979, according to CBS News, Israel tested a nuclear bomb in the South Atlantic "with help and cooperation of the South African government" (quoted in Israel Shahak, Israel's Global Role [1982]). In the mid-'60s the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission discovered several hundred pounds of enriched uranium missing from the inventory of a Pennsylvania company headed by one Zalman Shapiro, who, according to a 1977 expose in Rolling Stone magazine, was working with Israeli army official Yechezkel Johnson, however, ordered an official cover-up.

Last year reports surfaced that Israel had purchased 800 nuclear bomb triggers from an American firm. U.S. officials had not asked to inspect the sites where these krytrons were in use since "such a request could be construed by the Israelis as an affront to their national sovereignty" (New York Times, 16 May 1985). And this past week it was revealed that Defense Nuclear Energy records document a 1963 shipment to Israel of four metric tons of heavy water—a key ingredient in running the nuclear reactor at Dimona. (NATO ally Norway supplied another million cubic meters of heavy water last year.)

Israelis target Russia: new Lavi fighter-bomber could nuke Soviet Black Sea fleet headquarters at Sevastopol. With refueling, they could reach Moscow, 20 tons.) American complicity clearly goes way back.

To be sure, the Zionists' local ambitions sometimes clash with U.S. strategic interests. In the first days of the 1973 October war, when it looked like Israel might actually suffer a defeat by Arab armies, "Israel's Jericho surface-to-surface missiles were armed with nuclear warheads in a frantic three-day drive of activity centered around Dimona" (Colonel William V. Kennedy, Intelligence Warfare [1983]). The Kremlin reportedly responded by preparing to send nuclear warheads for Egyptian missiles, whereas, the U.S., at the height of Nixon's Watergate crisis, put its strategic forces on red alert.

So what would the Zionists do with 200 nuclear bombs? Israel Shahak, the courageous Israeli civil libertarian, has translated the following hair-raising musings of Shlomo Aharonson, a prominent supporter of "liberal" Zionist Ezer Weizman (the former Israeli air force chief and then war minister in the Likud government):

"With the most efficient amount of atom bombs, we can hit hard all the Arab capitals, and tear down the Aswan Dam. Another amount can hit other cities and oil installations. Thermonuclear bombs (H-bombs) can destroy territorial aims, including concentrations of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon..."
While the "Teherangate" affair was blowing White House credibility to kingdom come, another bombshell exploded when former French prime minister Jacques Chirac was quoted, in an interview reported in Sun Myung Moon's Washington Times, as having been understood from top German officials that the El Al bomb plot in London last April may have been concocted, orchestrated by the Israeli spy agency from start to finish. For the last several years, Reagan and his neoconservative anti-Soviet "state-supported terrorists" campaign has been Libya-bashing, leading to the March 1986 raid on Libyan SAM sites and Reagan's Tripoli murder raid against Qaddafi in April. Now de Borchgrave, who has been pushing the "Syrian connection," with clearance from Washington. Syria is widely understood to be the focal point of the Israeli war buildup. But the Chirac revelations cut the ground under many of the latest criminal provocation as well.

From the beginning, the case of Nezar Hindawi is one of the most puzzling aspects of the El Al jet explosion. What happened on the El Al jet sounded uncannily like a plot straight out of The Little Drummer Girl, by John le Carre's espionage novel. A high-living Palesinian terrorist in London induces a naive, lonely Irish chambermaid, just off the boat from Dublin, to be his unwitting pawn. Supposedly, Hindawi has been plotting to get to Murph, whom he's got pregnant and promises to marry (in Israel!), a brown suitcase (disguised as a pocket calculator) timed to explode somewhere over the Swiss Alps, and to kidnap and destroy a German (as a diversion).

Hindawi runs to the Syrian embassy, meets with the Syrian ambassador, and is spirited away to a safe house. Fearing that the Syrians are going to do him in before both holes up in a London hotel where he is conveniently arrested by Scotland Yard, who it turns out had been trailing him for almost two months. Meanwhile, his brother, Ahmed Hazi, is implicated by West Berlin police in the activities of an obscure German-Arab friendship association. (For a while they tried to link Hindawi to a notorious right-wing Italian Belle disco, the West Berlin club frequented by black American GIs and Tunisian溧s, a settlement of which was held responsible for the terror-bombing of Lod.)

Hindawi writes to a cousin in Italy, telling him to "persuade the Syrians to arrange for Britain to release him, perhaps by kidnapping Britons in Greece on charges of involvement in last year's Achille Lauro cruise liner hijacking. If you believe them."

Nezar Hindawi was convicted by a London court on October 24 and sentenced to 45 years in prison. Upon upon Margaret Thatcher's government announced it was breaking off relations with Syria and sent on Britain's allies to back her up—based on the supposedly conclusive evidence of Syrian involvement (which was neither presented at the trial), Washington withdrew its ambassador. Damascus and Washington announced "empty sanctions," such as a ban on ticket sales for Syrian airlines, which don't fly to the U.S. anyway. After some arm-twisting, the Common Market countries fell into line as well. Greece dissented, however,.completing the anti-Syrian campaign to the anti-Soviet propaganda barrage over the shooting down of the South Korean airliner which overflew key Soviet military installations in September 1983. The Israelis have taken on the dirty work of providing arms and training for the pro-regime Muslim and Christian regimes (disguised in the form of an anti-Soviet holocaust is unleashed?"

The legacy of the Bolshevik Revolutions of 1917, even the bureaucratic Stalinist degeneration, is the prime target of the Western imperialists. The Zionist leadership, even putting themselves at the disposal of the imperialists, are now more than ever working closely with the Soviet Union, where they can at least get a job and free medical care. Is Israel now trying to get all the Jews out before an anti-Soviet holocaust is unleashed?"

The Israelis have taken on the dirty work of providing arms and training for the pro-regime Muslim and Christian regimes around the world, from the Somozait in Nicaragua to the war-ravaged racists of South Africa. And Israel has become well integrated into Reagan's nuclear first-strike plans: the two countries recently conducted joint military maneuvers and Israel has agreed to allow "pre-positioning" of U.S. military supplies on its soil, as well as cooperating in Reagan's "Star Wars" program.

As one Israeli observer perceptively noted: "The Americans pay us because they want to keep a clean-sheet with an international client, a place with strategic, extraterritorial strategic value, near to the USSR, near to East Europe, near to the oil fields." P. — Sever in Al Hamshar, 1986, 2007

The Zionists are dangerously madmen who are fully capable of pushing the button. But their big brothers in Washington are also war crazy. We don't know how many nuclear weapons the Israelis have, but it's an open secret that the U.S. has over 25,000 ready to hit the Soviet bloc. And while Reagan hallucinates about "Star Wars," it's official U.S. policy to "decapitate" the Soviet leadership and "prevail" in a "limited nuclear exchange." It will take world revolution to smash this most reactionary of all imperialist ambitions. We must work the plans of these nuclear nuts for a thermonuclear Apocalypse Now.

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Gonzo Diplomacy… (continued from page 1)

the Reykjavik summit, even put a good face on loss of the Senate to the Democrats, he bragged. But not four times in a row. Reagan finally went on TV to tell the story of the Iranian guns-for-hostages deals, to no avail: 14 percent of the American people believed the Reykjavik summit, even put a good face on their country—bombings, invasions, terror strikes in the name of "fighting terrorism." Sure. The U.S. 1980 embassy hostage "rescue" mission got stuck in the desert with sand up their turbines; the Delta Force was so panicked they left their dead on the ground. But an imperialist bully, defeated in Vietnam and made a laughing stock over Iran, is dangerous indeed. They struck mercilessly at tiny Grenada and bombed Qaddafi's Libya while gearing up to do a dangerous job on Sandinista Nicaragua. And where was the ubiquitous Col. Oliver C. "(Now You See Him, Now You Don't)" North of overt covert contra war fame? In 1986 he was just over the border in this time he ran the show from Cyprus.

Back in Washington, White House spokesmen Larry Speakes (who learned something about credibility gaps while serving as press aide to Nixon's Watergate attorney James St. Clair) was trying to get the press and Congress to back off. But the story is out. Meanwhile, the Danish seamen's union has provided information about the flow of U.S. arms to Iran, out of understand-

able concern over their members' safety in the midst of the war with Iraq. Columnist Russell Baker said he'd planned to start his piece with the remark, "In President Carter's time the Ayatollah Khomeini called the United States 'The Great Satan.' After dealing with President Reagan he will call it 'El Stupido.'" (New York Times, 15 November.) So much for "Operation Staunch." "TeheranGate" has provided the Democrats with an excellent opportuni-
ty to out-Reagan Reagan. Maybe they figure they could ride back into office in '88 by mimicking Reagan's "stand tall" rhetoric against Carter. (The media are willing to do their part, rerunning clips of Reagan vowing never to negotiate with "terrorists." ) Outgoing Democratic House Speaker Tip O'Neill on CNN News (14 November) pointed to the sinister pattern of the Reagan administration: "I just see so many incidences in the past. When [KAL Flight] 007 went down that's the day we met and decided to send our Marines to Beirut. When the 241 Marines were killed, three days later, get it all the front page and go into Grenada. At Iceland, it's a disaster and two hours later, public relations: 'why it's been a success.'"

No matter what the immediate objectives of Reagan's NSC operations in Iran, behind the arms shipments and farcical "secret diplomacy" is the urgent desire to secure strategic anti-Soviet interests in the region. The Soviet Union borders Iran to the north, Afghanistan to the east. As the Navy Times (17 November) noted, "Under current doctrine, the United States is committed to defend the Persian Gulf—meaning Iran—with any means against any threat from outside the area, which means the Soviet Union… If Iran were prepared to abandon its defensive hostility to the United States, however, the U.S. strategic task would be greatly simpli-
died… The Soviet Union would know that it would not be able to count on continued hostility between Iran and the United States—natural strategic allies who are now deep at odds."

And the U.S. privileged partner in the Near East, Zionist Israel, has maintained close ties with Iran both under the CIA-installed shah and the Shi'ite fundamentalist ayatollahs. As far as they're concerned, although Islamic, Persian Iran is an enemy of the Arabs, and therefore a natural friend of Israel. They love the bloody Iran-Iraq war (more than a million dead so far) which is doing more to tie down their enemies than the shah ever did.

In their bizarre fashion, the Reaganites were trying to mend anti-Soviet fences in the region. It's not so easy given the hodgepodge of competing nationalisms. By backing it so ineptly, they've led even conservative pundits and politicians to wonder if it's bed-
time for Bonzo. But the White House spinmeisters aren't giving in; after getting shellacked at the polls, they put the president up there again to say the "Reagan revolution" would continue—just no more Mr. Nice Guy. For the working class, the administration's temporary diplomatic setback won't amount to much, and the Democrats in power would be more of the same: remember Billy Carter and Qaddafi? The Iran follies are low comedy, but when the Great Communicator "joked" about the bombing of Russia beginning in five minutes, he wasn't kidding. It's only by the working class organizing and taking state power away from the nuclear-armed madmen in Washington that we'll get to have the last laugh.
Workers: Don't Buy Protectionist Poison!

When they are not giving back their members' wages and benefits, this country's union tops are busy whipping up chauvinist hostility against the Japanese, whom they scapegoat for the wretched state of American capitalism. Taking U.S. profits, the bosses have been building a sweatshop industry in Japan. They're building from scratch an industry whose work force consists of denatured labor. The UAW philosophy these days is "what's good for G M, auto workers should know a good thing when they see it, and vote for it automatically"—not withations that use smoke and mirrors and denounce markets! And I'll tell you today that if you try to sell an American car in Japan, you better have the United Nations behind you when they land on the docks!

No wonder a leading Japanese consenervative politician, who visited the U.S. a few years back, said the climate of opinion here reminded him of the years just before World War II. Japan was driven into that war by protectionist barriers raised against its exports by the Western powers during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a direct response to the American, British and Dutch embargo of oil shipments to Japan without which its economy could not survive. U.S. imperialism thus provoked Japan into war and then ended it with one of the most cold-blooded atrocities in modern times. China's defenseless civilians were killed by clear weapons on the defenseless civilian populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today once again, capitalist decay and the pro-imperialist labor bureaucracy of the A F L-C I O are leading American and Japanese workers against one another. The answer to Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima is to support the Americans and Japanese workers to unite and wage class war against their own exploiters on Wall Street and in Tokyo, from the Fortune 500 to the zaitatsu.

The UAW's sole "success" story since the 1945 UFW strike has been with the United Auto Workers in Canada's United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) plant in Fremont, California. With import quotas in force, Japanese and now Korean auto makers have increasingly chosen to open up new factories in the U.S. rather than pay tariffs on parts and components imported from Japan. The UAW at NUMMI did not even bother to negotiate a contract with these new employers, the old GM plant here was reopened with half the workforce hired without regard to union seniority, the grievance system essentially destroyed, and job classifications reduced to four. Nor is NUMMI heavily automated—it's old-fashioned speedup, turning up the screws to increase the rate of exploitation. The American bosses know a good thing when they see it, and the new GM Saturn plant in Tennessee will model its "labor relations" on NUMMI. The rotten Saturn deal was accepted by the UAW tops before workers were even hired.

"Recently Victor Reuther, brother of Owen Bieber (right) sells out auto workers in 1984 pact with GM chairman Roger Smith."

Lee Iacocca, in concert with Democratic president Carter, bailed out Chrysler at the expense of half the company's workforce. UAW head Dave Begorner got his payoff by becoming a member of Chrysler's board so that he could vote on demanding more billions in givebacks from the union! (Striking South African workers are fighting for union representation on the board, should learn from the U.S. experience.) At that time the Spartacist League was calling for a walkout strike to seize Chrysler's assets. A wave of plant occupations centered in Detroit could have halted the union-busting drive that burgeoned two years later when Reagan busted the PATCO air traffic controllers. The UAW's sole "success" story since then has been the joint GM-Toyota New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) plant in Fremont, California. With import quotas in force, Japanese and now Korean auto makers have increasingly chosen to open up new factories in the U.S. rather than pay tariffs on parts and components imported from Japan. The UAW at NUMMI did not even bother to negotiate a contract with these new employers, the old GM plant here was reopened with half the workforce hired without regard to union seniority, the grievance system essentially destroyed, and job classifications reduced to four. Nor is NUMMI heavily automated—it's old-fashioned speedup, turning up the screws to increase the rate of exploitation. The American bosses know a good thing when they see it, and the new GM Saturn plant in Tennessee will model its "labor relations" on NUMMI. The rotten Saturn deal was accepted by the UAW tops before workers were even hired.

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"Recently Victor Reuther, brother of long-time UAW chief Walter, surfaced as a spokesman for opponents to the Saturn deal. But Victor Reuther and the house "disidents" in the UAW accept the same pro-capitalist and anti-foreignworker program as Bieber & Co. In exchange for an annual 3 percent wage increase, the Reuther bureaucracy (which trained the Bieber's and Ephlins) enforced company discipline on the shop floor and shackled the union to the state. The UAW was one of the first unions to register under the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law. Victor Reuther was a self-confessed bag man for the CIA, whose work centered on purging leftwing union leaders and witholding help from pro-boss union misleaders gain ascendancy. Now the chickens have come home to roost: the 3 percent is long gone, American auto workers have taken massive cuts, while UAW leaders hypocritically squawk that they are undercut by "company unions" abroad.

For Militant International Solidarity!

In explaining the militant stand of the South African auto workers striking GM, NAWU leader Fred Sauls noted: "We can't just stand back and let them leave the country with all the gold and diamonds and profits they've made here" (Wall Street Journal, 7 Novem ber). This statement applies equally to the United States. The big corporations have looted basic industries, closing dozens of plants and laying hundreds of thousands of workers on the scrapheap, in order to make a bigger buck elsewhere. U.S. Steel has become USX, while GM/Hughes has become one of the prime Star Wars defense contractors. The only answer is for the workers to "divert" the bosses in a socialist revolution that will expropriate the means of production and achieve an international socialist society.

It requires a militant, internationalist party must be forged, with deep roots in the trade unions, that will unify the struggles of workers around the world and fight for final victory over the parasitic system of capitalist exploitation.
South Africa: Mass Firing of Auto Strikers

NOVEMBER 17—General Motors Corporation called in South Africa's apartheid police on November 7 to break up plant occupations in Port Elizabeth by militant auto workers there. The workers were striking in response to GM's announcement that it was "divesting" its local operation, leaving workers with no guarantee of union protection, job security or any jobs at all.

Simultaneously, the largest American manufacturer announced a sweeping program for domestic disinvestment: it will shut nine automotive assembly and component plants outright and partially close two more, affecting as many as 29,000 workers in Michigan, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. The massive cutbacks in GM's American operations, the most sweeping in its 78-year history, will result in an anticipated 120,000 layoffs, including workers in related industries.

In South Africa members of the National Automotive and Allied Workers Union (NAAWU) and the Motor Assembly and Component Workers occupied GM's Kempston Road and Aloe plants when the company announced it was selling out to a consortium consisting of its former white managers. In an exceptional display of class solidarity cutting across racial lines, white workers initially downsized tools along with black workers (Weekly Mail, 31 October-6 November). NAAWU demanded severance pay and pension payments, seeking compensation for lost job security and seniority rights. The bosses' answer was to call out riot cops and troops to evict the workers. Some 567 militants were fired; in the face of continued strike action, GM has announced that it will hire scabs and resume production "with or without the unions." And on November 17, cops viciously attacked the Port Elizabeth strikers with snarling dogs and whips.

GM's brutal treatment of its South African unions exposes the liberal lie that divestment schemes and pressure from American corporations will liberate the black masses from apartheid slavery. From South Africa to America, GM attacks unions and lays off workers in pursuit of one and only one goal: higher profits. The U.S. plant closings will massively devastate an already industrially devastated area. The closing of the Fleetwood/Clark assembly and Conner stamping plants will leave only two auto plants within the city limits of black Detroit. Flint, Michigan will be even harder hit when approximately 8,000 workers pick up their pink slips as GM closes two facilities including the body plant that was the site of the famous six-week sit-down strike of 1937 that established the United Auto Workers (UAW). Also slated for the unemployment lines are over 6,000 workers in Norwood and Hamilton, Ohio along with thousands more at St. Louis, Willow Springs, Illinois and Pontiac, Michigan. And GM chairman Roger Smith said to look for more "consolidations" (plant closings). Already, 1,500 additional Buick workers in Flint have been laid off. Flint UAW officials lamented that while their people will be losing everything, "Roger Smith has dollar signs in his eyes" (Detroit Free Press, 7 November).

If ever a situation cried out for militant, joint labor action from Port Elizabeth to Detroit to shut down a bloated, writhing capitalist giant and seize the plants, this is it. The UAW tops in "Sacrifice House" predictably acted otherwise: union vice president for GM Donald Ephlin would only "regret this decision," and avoided any criticism of GM. Instead the union called on the Democratic-controlled Congress to bail out the bosses by passing chauvinist protectionist legislation limiting foreign car imports. The UAW misleaders expressed gratitude at having been given "early notice" of the layoffs. "Both Mr. Ephlin and company officials said the plant closings had been expected for several years..."

In other words, UAW officials from International president Owen Bieber on down lied when they sold the rotten contract with GM two years ago, claiming that it guaranteed job security. One labor economist noted: "Often, you find that clauses written into contracts protecting job security seem to go by the wayside when it comes to company survival or corporate profits, and that seems to be the case here" (New York Times, 7 November). The "job protection" negotiated by the UAW was certainly designed to ensure that there would be no incursion on company profits. It omitted "only" one eventualty: continued on page 11

International labor solidarity: militant black workers at Johannesburg 3M demonstrate in support of New Jersey 3M workers fighting plant closure.

Partisan Defense Committee