National strikes now!

ACTU Exec sells out to Fraser

Free quality health care for all!
Expropriate the private health funds and insurance companies!

A series of four-hour general stoppages across the nation, spontaneously extending into full-day walkouts in Brisbane, Newcastle, Wollongong and Melbourne; 24-hour stoppages by Sydney and Melbourne maritime unions and sections of the ACTU branch of the Australian Workers Union; strong support for a 24-hour nationwide general strike; plus a barrage of calls on the ACTU to organise nationwide industrial action — such has been the angry working-class response to the Fraser Government's attempts to implement their fiscal austerity drive at the expense of the Labor-carded health care scheme.

Desperate to head off any confrontation with the Government the union tops, in a 12 to 5 vote at an ACTU executive meeting held June 21-22, refused to call a one-day nationwide general strike. Instead they called a "special union conference" for July 3-4 and virtually demanded that workers withhold strike action while they attempt to barter down the Health tax levy from 2.5 to 1.6 percent. Once again the reformist misleaders, by refusing to mobilise their ranks and instead relying on diplomatic manoeuvres for meaningless concessions, are obstructing and demoralising a militant response to Fraser's attacks. National strike action is urgently necessary now. Time can only strengthen the Govern-

Continued on page six

DECLARATION OF FRATERNAL RELATIONS
between the international Spartacist tendency and the Organizacion Trotskyista Revolucionaria of Chile

I

The events of 1970 to 1973 in Chile posed, and continue to pose, a fundamental test of the revolutionary capacity of all who claim to speak in the historic interests of the working class. The self-proclaimed socialists who bound the exploited masses to the "constitutionalist" offi­
cers, must be to draw the lessons of the Allende coup; and centrist misleaders who pave the way for the bourgeoisie state, today in the hands of the blood-drenched Pinocchio dictator­ship, must be to draw the lessons of the Allende popular front. Only in this manner can the masses be broken from their treacherous reformist and centrist misleaders who gave the way for the coup of 11 September 1973. At that time the bourgeois popular front was replaced by another form of capitalist rule, the bonapartist military junta, which balances between the fractions and cliques of the middle and big bourgeoisie, reflect­ing the pressure of the major imperialist powers.

Already in late 1970 the Spartacist tendency warned:

"It is the most elementary duty for revol­
tutionary Marxists to irrevocably oppose the Popular Front in the election and to place ab­solutely no confidence in it in power. Any 'critical support' to the Allende coalition is class treason, paving the way for a bloody defeat for the Chilean working people when dom-

estic reaction, abetted by international im­
perialism, is ready."

Tragically, there was no Trotskyist party in Chile to galvanize the workers around the 'Marxist program of class independence, and the Spartacist warning proved all too accurate.

II

As Trotsky remarked in 1935: "In reality, the Popular Front is the false solution of Popularism. It is a strategy for this epoch. It also offers the best criterion for the difference between Bolshevism and Menshevism." The largest purportedly revolutionary organis­ation formally outside the UP coalition, the HIR (Heinrich Hoffmann Institute), was incapable of presenting a class opposition to the popular front. While attracting a layer of militant youth fundamentally from the petty bourgeoisie, and periodically criticizing the Communist Party (CP), the HIR never broke from the Popular Unity. Following the September 1970 elections it called on the masses to support Allende; today the HIR is part of the popular front in exile, seeking to "broaden" the class-collaborationist coalition, including even Christian Democrats. The individ­ual heroism of many HIR militants cannot hide the political bankruptcy of these petty-bourgeois, the left cover of the popular front.

Nor did the Chilean disciples of the several self-proclaimed "Fourth Internationals" present a Trotskyist policy of irrevocable hostility to popular frontism. The sympathizers of the "United" Secretariat (USec) were either mired in perpetual "deep entry" in the Socialist Party (the traditional graveyard for pseudo-Trotskyists in Chile) or fawningly cringing after the HIR. (In fact, the USec played a central role in creating the HIR, but this did not prevent the Castroites from summarily expelling them two years later for "Trotskyism". Such are the rewards of opportunism!) The USec supporters labeled the bourgeoisie elements of the UP irrelevant, allying the Allende regime with the label "reformist" and calling on it to carry out its own bourgeois program.

As for the two Chile groups adhering to the "Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International" led by the French OCI, neither of them characterized the UP as a popular front until after the Pinochet coup; and the minuscule Posadista group considered the Allende regime as a "revolutionary government", a category in which it also includes the military juntas of Peru and Panama.

III

However, some militants in Chile did seek to oppose the class collaboration of the two domi­nant reformists, or as Lenin said, bourgeoisie workers' parties (Communist and Socialist). In late 1972, elements of the UB (Revolutionary October Tendency) and the Trotskyist International minority of the USec refused to go along with a fusion with the PRT (Revolutionary Trotskyist Front, led by L Vitale and allied with the centrist USec majority) because of the failure to resolve (or even discuss) differences on Cuba and guerrillism, and the lack of a revol-

Continued on page two
Continued from page one

which
direct contact with the
this grouping was immediately expelled by the
events could only be a condemnation of the
Organization
among charges of "ultra-leftism;'.

there would be no discussion on
then, following the 1973 coup, posthumously re-

many years of experience leading struggles of the
and state agencies of the

political pact

ent class opposition to the popular front, put

Political Party

'break with the bourgeois

At the time of the shotgen wedding which

the OUC, which became the Revolutionary Trotskyist
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for guerrilla war, it stood for guerrilla struggle by the

In the case of the Argentine
to class collaboration.
The proletariat

the OUC's 1973 position
by

The OUC came to the conclusion that the

with

organizational commitment to the program of Trotskyism,

Grassie joined the

and subsequently joined, the

as a break from Leninism.

Australasian

Letter of resignation

17 May 1976

Australasian SPARTACIST is being sold at the OPL, Sydney.

Australasian SPARTACIST July 1976

Declaration

a monthly organ of revolutionary Marxist for the
birth of the Fourth International published by Sparta-
cist Publications for the Central Committee of the
Spartacist League of Australia and New Zealand, section of the international Spartacist tendency

EDITORIAL BOARD: Bill Lagon

Dear Comrade,

Dear Comrade,

I wish to submit my resignation from the
BLCC. This decision is due primarily to

Our organisation is a break from Leninism.

Grassie's resignation

in Australian Spartacist no 29 (March 1976), we reported the statement of resignation from the Canberra Branch (CB) of Grassie, a prominent former member of the CPA's Queensland branch, and subsequently joined, the SL

While Grassie joined the SL out of genuine if
abstract commitment to the program of Trotskyism, he proved a figure easily winnable by force far from anyone.

Grassie's resignation

in this case the working class, or elsewhere for

the various issues in the supposedly Leninist campaigns in bourgeois SP and CP.

Coming into contact with the international Spartacist tendency (IST), the OTC found itself in fundamental agreement with the IST's consistent class position to the popular front, put

forward in positions taken even at the height of

Allende's popularization of the government. In

sections in the ostensibly Marxist and revolu-
tionary movements no longer seem to me to be such

differences in the ostensibly Marxist and revolu-
tionary organizations of the left -- a Latin American super-Kuomintang. Such an organization, based on the Appetites, or the

There is no better illustration of the impotence of

to the Leninist vanguard nucleus. Yet the differences in the ostensibly Marxist and revolutionary movements no longer seem to me to be such

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The OTC accepted the conclusion that there was no difference in the ostensibly Marxist and revolutionary movements no longer seem to me to be such

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This necessity is imposed by the "programme of splits and fusions leading to the crystallisation of Leninist/revisionist tendencies in the world working class and the general left movement as a virtual canonic, nor can I continue to organise within this particular group's maintaining an almost military control over the party."

Continued on page six
Recent issues of Workers News, paper of the centrist Healyite Socialist Labour League (SLL) have been replete with threats and smear campaigns against opposition to the SLL by the Intransigent Stalinists of the Socialist Party (Australia) (SPA), the reformist Communist Party of Australia (CPA) and the Trotskyist Socialist Party (SPA). The SPA's statement opposing the June 17 issue's demonstration (Mulgrew/Healy's gangsterism coming home to roost) is rational, circled picture of Joe Palma, member of the CPA's new shadowy inner "troika", "turning" in a box shelter during what the SPA declare as "a Stalinist stake-out at Central railway". But the SPA's statement is not new. The case of Mulgrew/Healy's gangsterism chickens coming home to roost.

The background to the Healyites' latest conspiracy plot began at this year's Mayday march where SPA-goons prevented sellers of the SPA's Direct Action (20 May) reprinted sections of a sniping aside by the SPA's Stalinists on the SPA's Mayday intimidation of salesmen, along with detailed examples of disruption and threats directed at SLLers at Diner's Antis (from the SPA's South Australian state section). The next week SSL salesman Richard Moore was attacked by an unidentifiable man from the SPA's Stalinist-dominated Alba newspaper and harassment from Sydney's Central Railway station salesmen of the CPA's Trotskyist Weekly New. Despite confused details and dubious sources (the only available account is the SLL's version) the assault on Moore was clearly a case of violent provocation by the adversary party who, in this cowardly attack -- those responsible must be exposed -- for the first time in the history of the SSL claims that at the first "stake-out" on May 27 a "Healyite goon seller" was slapped several times in the face, spat on and a cigarette knocked from his mouth, and that he did not strike back (Direct Action, 30 June). And, claims Thrush, the CPA defence squadron was sent only to protect their normal salesmen who were on the scene of a kind of existent abuse and harassment from Workers News salesmen. The SPA has never specifically denied by the CP that the SPA's Stalinist-dominated Alba newspaper and harassment from Sydney's Central Railway station salesmen of the CPA's Trotskyist Weekly New.

We can easily believe the SSL has been harassing CPA Weekly New salespeople. The point of interferring with the CPA's right to sell. The Socialist Party has often experienced the same tactics reported by the SPA. The SSL has no legitimate complaint against the so-called "stake-out" designed to deter such harassment. We will defend any tendency to SSL harassment. We will defend the SSL against harassment by the CPA, SPA, or anyone else. The labour movement must be freed from every trace of the poison of gangsterism.

manifest in the whole charade is the pious hypocrisy of everyone concerned. The SSL itself is engaged in the point of interferring with the CPA's right to sell. The Socialist Party has often experienced the same tactics reported by the SPA. The SSL has no legitimate complaint against the so-called "stake-out" designed to deter such harassment. We will defend any tendency to SSL harassment. We will defend the SSL against harassment by the CPA, SPA, or anyone else. The labour movement must be freed from every trace of the poison of gangsterism.

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The SSL's paranoid style reflects the growing gap between its grandiose pretensions to mass influence it does not have and the reality that it is a frenzied, politically degenerating small group isolated from the organised working class and the whole class have the opportunity to test competencies and programs in the right of the class struggle. Those who distract the struggle through violence, slander, threats, exclusion etc., only admit the inability of their own organisation's politics to win over the masses consequently their inability to lead the workers to revolution and victory.

For our workers' democracy it is no abstract legal or moral absolute, in no way resembling fake, bourgeois democracy. All stages of building the workers' party require ceaseless political struggle and clarification, through which the world clearifies and the whole class have the opportunity to test competencies and programs in the right of the class struggle. Those who distract the struggle through violence, slander, threats, exclusion etc., only admit the inability of their own organisation's politics to win over the masses consequently their inability to lead the workers to revolution and victory. ■

On the vital financial side of the campaign, fundraising still urgently needed not only to bring to public attention the persecution of Iorio Munoz, but also to help obtain refugee status and safe conduct for him and his family out of Argentina. Needed in Australia are urgent contributions to the Intransigent Committee, Box 3473, GPO Sydney 2000. Requests for further information concerning the campaign can be sent to the same address. Act immediately -- the lives of a revolutionary workers' leader is at stake. ■

For identification purposes only

I endorse ■

My organisation endorse* the international defence campaign to save Maria Munoz, endorsed the following organisations:

Mario Munoz must not die! Stop the political repression in Argentina and Chile!

Name
Organisation
Address
Signated

I am willing to work with the Committee to save Maria Munoz.

I donate $ _______ to help save Maria Munoz. (Make cheque payable to the Mario Munoz Case Committee, GPO Box 3473, Sydney, NSW 2001.)

* Endorsement indicates willingness to permit your name or your organisation to be associated with the campaign of the Mario Munoz Defence Committee.
Syrian troops out of Lebanon!

Since the beginning of June, Syria has been engaged in a full-scale military intervention into the Lebanese civil war. It has reinforced the 15,000 Syrian or Syrian-controlled troops already in Lebanon with an additional 15,000 regular soldiers and 400 tanks, most of which are Soviet-made T-54s.

Syrian troops had previously infiltrated Lebanon under the guise of the Christian Maronite commandos (the Syrian-controlled as-Saqa Palestinian guerrilla organization in Lebanon contains 7000 men, and the 5000-man Hittin Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army is also pro-Syria). However, on April 9 Syria announced that it would not provide the Lebanese border, partially to bolster support for Elias Sarkis, its candidate in the Lebanese presidential elections. On May 27 Damascus consented to another six months extension of the UN observer force on the Golan Heights, thereby freeing up units of the Third Armored Division, which are normally held in reserve for combat with Israelis extending on Galon, for the June invasion of Lebanon.

Palestinians troopers at defence post in Beirut.

The June invasion, preceded by the Syrian-imposed election of Sarkis (see NO 112, 4 June), was undertaken with the approval of the United States and Israel. On May 26, US special envoy to Lebanon L Dean Brown (who formerly served in Vietnam, Cyprus and Jordan during the 1970 civil war there) stated that the US had "made a mistake in discouraging Syria from sending troops into Beirut last month at a peace-making force in the civil war" (New York Times, 27 May 1976).

The attempt of Sarkis, elected by Syrianbourgeois, to negotiate an agreement with the contesting forces in the Lebanese civil war collapsed in late May over the question of the continued presence of Syrian troops. Following this collapse, the civil war quickly escalated, with over 115 reported killed and 250 wounded on May 29. Coinciding with this escalation, Hinnen al-Sham, the Syrian army commander, encircled and savagely staged two isolated Christian towns in northern Lebanon --- Qabali and Al Qayya --- threatening to wipe them out.

Both Fatah, the leading Palestinian group, and Fawzi patriarch Kamal Jumblat, a leader of the Lebanese Muslim forces, called on Hassen al-Sham to cease this genocidal attack, but Hassen al-Sham is a man who has always taken the independence road. He has gone from being a supporter of Jumblat's ally, Lil Al-Khatab, to being an enemy of Jumblat and a supporter of the Syrian Christians. Since the Syrians are currently backing the Maronite Christians, Hassen al-Sham's attack on these towns was a provocation to justify further Syrian military intervention.

In addition, on May 31 Syria sent 2000 additional troops into northern Lebanon, to the encircled towns and 4000 along the Damascus and Beirut highway to reopen that road to the reactionary Maronite Phalange, which holds the coastal area north of Beirut. Jumblat, who only a week earlier had denounced French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing's offer to dispatch combat troops to its former colony in the Levant, was now appealed to Lebanon's former imperialist master: "I have asked for French diplomatic and played a constructive role in Lebanon." For his part, the bloodthirsty Israeli prime minister, Yitzak Rabin, viciously remarked: "I am not shedding any tears over the military encounter between the Syrian Army and Arabist's terrorists."

Rabin's gloating at the sight of Arab killing Arab lays bare the genocidal and racist character of Zionism. But the Palestinian refugee camps that were formerly blown up in the name of Zionism are today strafed and bombarded in the name of "the Arab Revolution".

The Ba'athist rulers in Damascus who demagogically denounced the Sadat's "Sinai Agreement" with US imperialism and Zionist Israel -- putting themselves forward as uncompromising champions of Zionism's interests. But the Palestinian refugee camps, that were formerly blown up in the name of Zionism are today strafed and bombarded in the name of "the Arab Revolution".

Today it is Syrian troops that fight in Lebanon to maintain imperialist status quo in Lebanon, which can only culminate in more sectarian communal conflict and petty national wars. In the context of giving no support to either side in the Lebanese civil war, we call for Syrian troops out of Lebanon. With "leftist" Muslim leader Jumblat now seeking to internationalize the extremely fluid conflict, calling on imperialist France as well as the Arab states to intervene, the Maronite Palestinian coalition cannot be regarded as "neutral" (even if it is pro-Russian). Syria could give military support. However, with superior Syrian forces apparently determined to "internationalize" (crush) the Maronite, armed clashes may occur in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon. The main Near East allies (Iraq, Jordan) form temporary military blocs with Palestinian groups in Lebanon. The Near East will continue in the course of defending workers' quarters and refugee camps against a bloodbath.

With the "militant anti-Zionist" Assad (who came to power after blocking Syrian military aid to the defeated Palestinian Liberation Army in Jordan during "Black September" of 1970) threatening a military intervention of some kind, the wings of Arab nationalism is smothered. A genuine Palestinian and revolution粟ary leadership, further, will not come about through the intrigues and massacres by the colonels and sheiks and Zionists, but only through a genuine socialist proletarian overthrow of the rotting capitalist system and forges a socialist federation of the Near East.

Page Four AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST July 1976
The Italian elections have been gone and new with no party reaching a clear majority the prospect ahead remains a coalition of national unity. The Italian Communist Party (PCI) increased its vote by 7 per cent to 34 per cent, chiefly at the expense of the small Social Democratic and Liberal parties, the polarisation amongst the Italian people still left the main bourgeois party, the Catholic Church-based Christian Democracy, with 39 per cent of the vote. Despite the PCI's electoral gains and growing respectability the Christian Democrats continue to adversely react the PCI's call for a "coalition of national unity". But without amalgam is put together the Christian Democracy, its life with the capitalist power structure of the Papal states has been the leading imperialist Army acronym, "SNAFU" (1963). But the generals, the bureaucratic hierarchy. The PCI was never a "puppet" of the US Army acronym: "SNAFU" (1963). The PCI's "left alternative" is open to both the PCI and the Radicals (PR) as well as to an eventual left split from the Christian Democrats. And in any case, at the last Socialist Party a resolution was approved which holds open various governmental possibilities following the elections, including a "government of national union". Having seen its privileged relations with the US over the last decades go up in smoke, the PCI seeks to erase a new position as the axis of the popular front (and possibly lead of government) with the bourgeois parties.

As Khrushchev recently said: "We have always offered to collaborate with the reformists, the democratic reform parties, the PCI. After April it was revealed that a former premier had received bribes in exchange for facilitating the purchase of various military transport planes. In the economic plane as well, the Christian Democrats have been unable to reverse their fortunes.

In 1974 a severe balance of payments crisis was avoided through a $2 billion loan from Germany, reputedly on the condition that the Communists be kept out of the government. For a time, the immediate foreign exchange crunch was averted and an industrial recovery seemed underway (industrial production in the last three months has increased by almost 20 per cent). However, already a hefty trade deficit is in the offing for 1976, the lira has fallen by more than a third relative to the dollar and inflation is increasing (now at 13 per cent) and due to rise sharply with the money supply up more than 30 per cent over the past year (Gonovelli, S June).

Thus the Christian Democracy is faced with the need to improve its standing and appease its authority measures in a period of internal party crisis and deepening recession. Simultaneously the DC leaders are under considerable pressure from international and domestic power centers to do a hard line against cooperation with the Communists. US Secretary of State Kissinger has warned repeatedly against PCI participation in the government, the latest coming after President Ford officially consulted the Communists for the first time since 1969, shortly before sharply increasing taxes and bank interest rates in line with the American "cold war" strategy. The PCI is grading for an anti-Communist crusade, with the Vatican newspaper, Osservatore Romano, labeling the elections a choice between "liberalism" and "Christian democracy".

Now to the "historic compromise"

The real lesson of Chile, however, is the danger to the working class represented by all types of popular front in the form of a broad "historic compromise" or a more traditional "left government". From the social democrats' "left bloc" and bourgeois liberals in the 1920s to the 1930s popular fronts in Spain and France to the Popular Front in Chile or the "Italian People's Alliance" in Portugal, class-collaborationist coalitions with the bourgeoisie have repeatedly spoiled defeat for the working class, blocking the road to revolution and consolidating the forces of reaction until they are ready to strike from a position of strength.

In Italy, the axis of revolutionary struggle is once again the popular front, and it is precisely on this axis, the relatively large centrist and left-rightist groups demonstrate their inability to present a consistent opposition to the PCI. The PCI, in elections, the "extra-parliamentary" forces of yesterday have buried a leftist coalition of "left electoral" cartel, the Centro Democratico Popolare (DC), that appears to minimize its votes by simply calling for a more left-wing popular front than the wall-to-wall coalition envisioned by Berlinguer.

The PCI has seen the "Trotskyism" is not to give a left cover to this shamless electoral cartel class collaborationist public relations direct participation or "critical" support, but to provide indirect support to "national" reformists and centrists, refusing to provide support to their candidates as long as they are committed to "national" collaboration with the bourgeois parties.

Crisis in the Christian Democracy

Following the "administrative" (municipal and regional) elections last June 15, when the PCI boosted its vote above 33 per cent, long-time Christian Democracy boss Antonio Cianfaglini was ousted as DC secretary and replaced by a colorful reformist, Leghorn (industrial production in the last three months has increased by almost 20 per cent). However, already a hefty trade deficit is in the offing for 1976, the lira has fallen by more than a third relative to the dollar and inflation is increasing (now at 13 per cent) and due to rise sharply with the money supply up more than 30 per cent over the past year (Gonovelli, S June).

But the Christian Democracy's internal crisis and possible defeat at the polls by no means signal their departure from office. The reformist Christian Democratic Party (PCI) has reportedly made clear that it does not wish to enter the government without the DC. The lesson of Chile, says PCI leader Enrico Berlinguer, is that you can't run a country with a mere 51 per cent of the votes. Instead he proposes a "historic compromise" with the PCI, the generals, the bureaucratic aristocrats and the plutocrats -- in short, a deal with the capitalist power structure of Christian Democratic Italy.

So the Christian Democracy is faced with the need to improve its standing and appease its authority measures in a period of internal party crisis and deepening recession. Simultaneously the DC leaders are under considerable pressure from international and domestic power centers to do a hard line against cooperation with the Communists. US Secretary of State Kissinger has warned repeatedly against PCI participation in the government, the latest coming after President Ford officially consulted the Communists for the first time since 1969, shortly before sharply increasing taxes and bank interest rates in line with the American "cold war" strategy. The PCI is grading for an anti-Communist crusade, with the Vatican newspaper, Osservatore Romano, labeling the elections a choice between "liberalism" and "Christian democracy".

The Italian Socialist Party (PSI) opened the government crisis on December 31 when its secretory, Francesco on Bartini, announced that it would no longer support the sinking ship of the DC minority government, and that the PCI would somehow have to be brought into power. In the succeeding weeks, PSI leaders sought to appear at the left of the Christian Democrats by offering a "left alternative" and favoring abortion reform and other democratic measures which could be sold, to "national" reformists willing to modify in the interests of a "broad" coalition with the party of the Catholic hierarchy. The Social Democratic opportunism was to avoid being slept upon in revolution in a PCI/DC coalition.

By appealing to leftist-inclined workers and regional liberals, they hope to carve out their own electoral milieu within the dominant PCI and PSI. The PCI and PSI are both plagued by internal splits and weaknesses which could be exploited by the PCI, PSI and DC leaders. It is impossible to predict how the PCI and PSI will react to the crisis, but it is clear that the PCI will continue to support the DC government, and that the PSI will continue to support the PCI.
Black anger... Continued from page eight

Johannesburg to protest the murderous government repression were joined by hundreds of black and white bystanders. As they charged forward, Soweto and raised clenched fists, policemen, reinforced by white railway workers and motorcycle gangs, viciously set upon them, and killed five, maimed many. In Durban, black students attempting to make their way to university were also turned back by club-swinging police.

Soweto — symbol of oppression

The dispute which sparked the Soweto massacre on Wednesday is indicative of the all-pervasive oppression of non-whites in South Africa. The sit-down strike line with the Afrikaner-based Nationalist Party's program of forcibly reintroducing tribal divisions and racial exclusions and cultural backwardness, in instruction of one of seven tribal "Mother tongues" became the norm in schools beginning in the early 1950s. For the small minority of blacks able to continue secondary schools, English, the language of industry and commerce (and hence a necessity for economic advancement), was the rule until recently.

In 1974, however, authorities in the Transvaal, the province in which Soweto is located, introduced Afrikaans as a second co-equal instructional language in the secondary schools. For the black students, this reinforced the enormously increasing economic racial division as seen a callous act of cultural subjugation, for non-whites are excluded from the ruling party. A month ago, a boycott started at Phoeni Junior Secondary School and soon spread to seven other schools, leading to the use of anti-Afrikaans march on June 16.

The language dispute is but one of the numerous recent struggles in which Soweto contains a population of over 1,000,000 black people in 35 square miles. Of its 102,000 tightly crowded homes, perhaps half have cold running water, less than a quarter have electric lights, and about 15% have indoor toilets. The average family income is 246 a month. Soweto contains 40% of all the work done by blacks in South Africa, excepting the higher 13 percent of the land designated as "tribal homelands", the rest of South Africa. Soweto cannot own land or the houses in which they live.

Blacks' employment, education, travel, family relations and life style are tightly controlled by the pass books which each must carry. These voluminous document files restrict their daily movements and are always inspected by white officials. Failure to produce the book at any time can lead to imprisonment, forced labor in private farms or deportation to a 'bantustan', and some half a million blacks are arrested every year for "pass offences.

Black labour: achilles heel of apartheid

But Soweto is more than a symbol of the apogee of apartheid and differentiation that are the lot of non-whites. It also represents the Achilles heel of apartheid -- the ever-growing demand for black labor to work the factories and mines of the white capitalist South Africa. Vorster believes that all 18 million blacks will eventually settle in the 'bantustans' and that only the labor intensive development is designed to minimize the black population in the economically strategic core of South Africa. The only blacks allowed in "White South Africa" are those who produce profits for their masters.

The township explosions that rocked the Vaal river and only 15 percent have inside bathe- residents of the Vaal, the province in which Soweto is located, on June 16.

Phefeni Junior Secondary School in Durban.

Marie Hotschilt

Before acting on your resignation

Dear Graeme,

I am in receipt of your letter of 19 June 1976.

We note your expression of a range of political differences with the organisation which you have helped to form over the years.

Before acting on your resignation we would like to have a chance to talk with you to remain as a member for the purpose of engaging in open internal argument with the comrades on your differences.

Yours,

Graeme Grasie
Sydney

Dear Graeme:

...We are in receipt of your letter of 19 June 1976.

We note your expression of a range of political differences with the organisation which you have helped to form over the years.

Before acting on your resignation we would like to talk with you to remain as a member for the purpose of engaging in open internal argument.

Yours,

Graeme Grasie

ACTU... Continued from page one

nent's hand and dissipate workers' willingness to fight. The Victoria-area ratification of this strike action in defiance of Medibank must be seen as the start of a mass strike against this wage policy, more to come.

For national strikes against the attacks on Medibank! Organise the private health fund debate within your works.

Medibank, a real but limited advance over previous demands, is a step forward. The shortcomings as far as working people's needs were concerned. The absolute general lack of the political struggle to get even the most basic national struggle, for health care, a national struggle, with health care the main issue, is clear, and needs urgent action.

What workers need is free socialised health care. Immediately this demands the takeover of the private hospitals, the expropriation of the drug companies and the other capitalist parasites in the medical industry and a massive campaign to organise health facilities and train new medical staff.

While Medibank has been anachronism to the vast bulk of its workers, and the medical workers' strike a demonstration of a section of the middle class, and the private fund lack of independence of Australia's trade unions, it has been a major triumph. It is, in it is not in the key axis in the bourgeoisie's attacks on the working class. From the workers' real concern that the removal of Medibank will be less wage restraint, the need to fight, fight, fight. The Medibank battle will not be broadened to include the social wage, the struggle for the socialisation of health care is compatible with the needs of capitalism.

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While Medibank has been anachronism to the vast bulk of its workers, and the medical workers' strike a demonstration of a section of the middle class, and the private fund lack of independence of Australia's trade unions, it has been a major triumph. It is, in it is not in the key axis in the bourgeoisie's attacks on the working class. From the workers' real concern that the removal of Medibank will be less wage restraint, the need to fight, fight, fight. The Medibank battle will not be broadened to include the social wage, the struggle for the socialisation of health care is compatible with the needs of capitalism.

At the same time the ruling class is acutely aware of Hawke's continuing need to maintain his authority amongst workers. The government's tactics in attacking the living standards of the workers, while hardly sophisticated, are obligingly calculated to give Hawke an appropriate image. The unwillingly agreeing, the government's acting as if they are the workers need more "concessions" if they are to have their earnings raised and the wage freeze continued. The plan is to relieve the government of the pressure of the workers' campaign to expand health facilities and train new medical staff.

With the People's Republic of China, joining the Peking bureaucrats' chorus of anti-Soviet tirades, the Medibank battle has once again brought to light the government's anti-working-class and the government's anti-working-class austerity program. Hawke's arguments in the National Frieda's "fight for the people's love-fest with the millionaire fractured home of Peking, ACTU President Hawke declared that the struggle is "confined to the employers, the workers, Hawke has now become its working-class voice -- even the virulent anti-labour Freiberg launched an appeal to workers "to join the government's anti-working-class program. Hawke has now become its working-class voice -- even the virulent anti-labour Freiberg launched an appeal to workers "to join the government's anti-working-class program.

Hawke's criminal sabotage of national strike action... Continued from page two

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The aim of the lefts, in opposing dual workers' and mass upsurges, is to muzzle the working class. This is to ensure that in the absence of a severe political conflict, no direct threat which objectively demands the strongest defensive action, or an overwhelming mass upsurge over the heads of the reformists that demands in effect they go beyond the return of the inadequate old guard. The risk here is that the revitalized mass workers' movement which has been an effective challenge to the indexation guidelines. Even on Medibank their program does not go beyond the return of the inadequate old scheme.

In the absence of a severe political crisis of the working class, the first great step towards an eventual crisis is to nullify the mass upsurge on which the working class is based by resolving that this is the end of a "limited" reformist initiative. The workers of the working class, in the absence of a clear alternative, will feel that there is no other way forward and solidify their alliance with the reformists. This has been no challenge to the indexation guidelines. Even on Medibank their program does not go beyond the return of the inadequate old scheme.

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But the real guarantee to the ruling class by the Communist Party is its support for a coalition of parties which is escapist, constitutional or "anti-fascist" parties. Such a popular front need not be linked to the DC, or even the PCI. The PCI has shown that it has the ability to go beyond the return of the inadequate old guard. The risk here is that the revitalized mass workers' movement which has been an effective challenge to the indexation guidelines. Even on Medibank their program does not go beyond the return of the inadequate old scheme.

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Black anger erupts in South Africa

The cold-blooded slaughter of school children in Soweto has caused the swarming discontents of South Africa's urban black masses to flare into open rebellion. For a few days this week the 'African townships' on the outskirts, the mining and industrial heartland surrounding Johannesburg, saw thousands-strong crowds of workers and youth hurl themselves against the symbols of oppression with torches, knives, stones and bare hands. This plebeian revolt illuminates the seething unrest of the subjugated non-white population of the apartheid police state.

On June 16, 10,000 black students surged through the streets of Soweto. The huge township reverberated that morning to the strains of "Nkosi Sikelel Afrika" ("God Bless Africa"), the black 'national anthem'. Protestors carried banners denouncing the compulsory use of Afrikaans in their schools. "Afrikaans is a gun", read one placard, expressing the deep revulsion of the African masses for the Dutch dialect spoken by aristocratic descendants of the slaveholding Boer settlers.

As the crowd converged on Phemfene Junior Secondary School, ten police cars blocked their path. Thirty police, blacks armed with batons and whites armed with revolvers and submachine guns, emerged from the vehicles. Angry students taunted these henchmen of the Sentlovelo oppressors. A white policeman hurled a teargas shell. The youths responded with stones and jocks.

The police aimed their weapons and fired without warning. One teenage student fell dead with a slug in his chest. Another, a boy about seven years old, was hit and died on the way to the hospital. As the youths fled this savage onslaught, others were gunned down. A third youth and an elderly bystander died of their wounds.

The police pumped a deadly fusilade of over 500 rounds into the unarmed crowd. The killings were a deliberate act of political terror. Although the government quickly apologized and police defended themselves with a carefully controlled show of force, a senior police official on the spot answered a British reporter's query whether warning shots were even fired: "No, we fired into the crowd. It's no good firing over their heads." (Penguin [London], 17 June).

The rebellion spreads

The plebeian masses crowded into the urban townships around Johannesburg responded to the police atrocities with an elemental outburst of pent-up fury. Two vehicles from the paternalistic Jantu Administration Board were overturned, and two white officials killed. A banner reading "Black Africans, the most dangerous drug for our culture" was draped over one of the bodies. The band's headquarters were burned to the ground. Vicious police dogs were backed up and set on fire.

As township after township ignited, government buildings and other institutions of white supremacy were attacked. In Soweto, a government beer hall, symbol of the prohibition of African liquor, was put to the torch. In Alexander, a giant spaghetti factory, white suburbia, a clinic, schools and white-owned shops were gutted by flames. In Soweto, a post office was burned. And in every township, scattershot police attacks raised the death toll higher, surpassing even the 84 killed by the apartheid regime and of solidarity with the workers of the Basque region, the most dangerous drug for our culture drugged by flames. In Barcelona, police pumped a deadly fusilade of over 500 rounds into the unarmed crowd. The killings were a deliberate act of political terror. Although the government quickly apologized and police defended themselves with a carefully controlled show of force, a senior police official on the spot answered a British reporter's query whether warning shots were even fired: "No, we fired into the crowd. It's no good firing over their heads." (Penguin [London], 17 June).

The new order![continued on page six]