Workers' struggles explode in Iran

The regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the bloody-handed tyrant of the Iranian Peacock Throne, may well be nearing its downfall. Throughout the streets of Iran have been aflame with rising popular protest which even the most ferocious repression has failed to dampen. After the 8 September "Bloody Friday" massacre of more than a thousand protesters by the shah's elite troops in Jaleh Square, Teheran, the regime doubtless hoped for a respite. But there has been no respite -- one provincial city after another echoes to the cry of "margh bar shah" ("death to the shah"); the universities and high schools of Teheran and other centres are in permanent ferment.

As the upheavals and demonstrations have intensified, the massive drive against the Islamic opposition, the mullah ("holy man") Ayatollah Khomeini, has from his Parisian exile been threatening to give "permission for an armed popular struggle". The "progressive" bourgeoisie of the Iranian National Front -- the political successors of the prime minister, Mossadeq, overthrow of the hated self-proclaimed "Light of Islam" succeeded in an all-sided political assault against the regime of the shah's tyranny to build a revolutionary socialist state.

In this white-hot situation it has been the entry into the arena of a crucial new element with its new slogan: " Volkswirtschaft Westerwald to the continued rule of the hated self-proclaimed "Light of the Aryan". The working class has not played a significant role in Iran in recent years. But since the beginning of October the three million-strong Iranian proletariat has become involved in a massive and intensifying strike wave. Initiated by white-collar workers in government offices and at first focusing solely on economic issues, the strike wave soon spread to the industrial proletariat, coinciding with what is now virtually a general strike. Many government utilities, the entire transport system and almost all industry including the crucial industrial complex outside Teheran are shut down.

Proletarians enter the anti-shah fight

As the strikes have spread they have become overtly political. The climax came in the first days of November when, after a series of smaller wildcats, the 60,000 Iranian oil workers went on strike demanding among other things the ending of marital law and the freeing of all political prisoners. The rich oil and natural gas fields of Kuwait, Bahrein, Iran and Iraq form the great refinery heartlands of Kharg Island and Abadan on the Gulf are idle, deserted except for their military guard.

The significance of this explosion of proletarian struggle cannot be overemphasised. By vigorously entering the anti-shah fight the proletariat shatters the aura of a "holy man" and the servile mass of society as a pole of attraction for the oppressed masses in competition-with and, inevitably, in opposition to the reactionary mullahs, whose demagogic attacks on "Westernisation" have up to now predominated in the conservative social turmoil. The mullahs have utilised the oppression of the shah's tyranny to build a movement which seeks to return Iran to the medieval religious fervour of the 7th century AD. The mullahs have not only propagated but destruated their commitment to Islam's brutal subjugation of women by parading contingents of women dressed in the veil, but have made no secret about their intention to suppress the Iranian revolution. The slaughter of the Indonesian Communists by Muslia fanatics in 1966 provides an abject lesson in the reactionary applications of a victory by Khomeini's followers. If such a disastrous scenario is not to be repeated what is urgently required is a revolutionary Trotskyist leadership to mobilise the proletariat in an all-sided political assault against the continued on page six

For a general strike in Queensland!
Smash ban on marches

The labour movement in Queensland is under rising attack from the arrogant, vicious, anti-government of bible-hashing peanut farmer Joh Hjelke-Petersen. Two months ago he announced plans for new laws banning strikes in a broad range of "essential areas" and attacking compulsory unionism.

In mid-October he personally organised a violent cop assault on a meatworkers' union picket line (in support of a ban on live cattle export) on the Brisbane wharves in which 45 picketers were arrested and one hospitalised. And on 30 October, a Trades and Labor Council (TLC)-sponsored demonstration against Petersen's year-long ban on political street marches was broken up by cops, who arrested 280 marchers (bringing the total since the ban began to almost 1500) including ALP Senator George Georges and federal shadow minister Tom Uren.

Neither the TLC nor the ALP lifted a finger against the anti-union laws. They did nothing to defend the jailed picketers! For a year the TLC refused to act against the ban on marches, standing on one mass arrest of protesters after another. The 30 October march gained the Brisbane Telegraph (31 October) the flavour: "The early arrests had a quaint air of old world courtesy about them... It was almost like selecting partners for a Waltz. After the gentlest arrests of Georges, Uren and their immediate followers, however, violence broke out. The same reporter described how one cop sadistically twisted his victim's arm "right up behind his neck" as if to break it. The arrests of "marched" protesters standing in King George Square were framed by pushing them from behind down steps into another line of cops, to be charged with "marchimg" and "assaulting police". The cops were manifestly lacking Uren's "spirit of love for the law", in reality the slave mentality of neck submission to the capitalist authorities.

For a statewide general strike

Brisbane waterside workers, seamen, and painters and dockers gave a different example the next day when they called a 24-hour strike and staged a 300-strong courthouse demonstration in protest against the arrests. This militant response must be extended into a statewide general strike to defend the elementary rights of the labour movement, with the demands: Drop all charges against the 380 marchers and the 45 taxi drivers! Smash the ban on marches! Defend all union picket lines! Stop government strikes-breakdown! Down with all the anti-union laws!

Even the bourgeois press is against the ban on marches; and not only here has Petersen grown increasingly isolated. In recent months he has come under growing fire from within his own Liberal/National Party coalition. The capitalist class is unsettled by these provocative reactionary whims of the troglodyte premier, who clings to power only thanks to a massive electoral majority.

Continued on page two
Queensland . . .

Nikolai Bukharin, one of the leaders of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, was executed by Stalin 40 years ago in the great purges of the 1930s. Stalin used his "rehabilitation" has now become something of a crusade in the moribund Communist circles, following an appeal from Bukharin's son, Yura, to Enrico Berlinguer, head of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). But what brings the Eurocommunist vultures circling around Bukharin's grave is not the memory of a hero or a martyr. It is the defenseless Bukharin, once leader of the 1918-20 Left Communist faction of the Bolshevik Party, is likely to become a new weapon in the arsenal of communist parties to defend workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for- cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!

A general strike to defend picket lines and workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for­ cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!

A general strike to defend picket lines and workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for­ cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!

A general strike to defend picket lines and workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for­ cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!

A general strike to defend picket lines and workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for­ cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!

A general strike to defend picket lines and workers' jobs through a reactionary, protectionist policy, led to the recent replacement of the for­ cest boycott which their reformist officials have been brainwashing their members to believe is a "reform tool against the capitalist state. Under the approaching oratory of "Frank Hardy finds a hero" (Autumn, 7 October) Bukharin and history suffer badly from long-time Communist Party of Australia member Jack's personal contribution to Bukharin's Eurocommunism. Although Trotsky is the most appreciated (slogan: "At no one's expense do we want to fill our own pockets"). Bukharians have so far refused to declare the cattle black. Gross violation of elementary working-class solidarity by the Trotskyist Trotskyites has been well documented by the bowery strike; one union, the MEPA, is still working in the field. Another union, the Clemton, is, I am led to believe the cattle in the first week of strike had already been sold and the strikebreak­ er promised an even stronger cattle line. Not only must the MEPA and another rep the union -- the entire section of the publication must mobilise a mass defense of the cattle lines!"
Spartacist League/US election campaign:

"For a socialist fight to save New York!

New York City is the finance centre of the mightiest imperialist power in the world, a centre of international culture. It is also the city where ghetto youth unemployment reaches 86 percent and racist cops indiscriminately shoot down black youth at point-blank range; where trucks fall through gaping holes in the elevated expressways and silos of charred and gutted buildings make the black and Puerto Rican ghettos look like Dresden after being firebombed; where lumpenproletarian jails and homicidal psychopath wheels are the subway trains — never safe at any hour. Nowhere, perhaps, in the advanced capitalist world is the crisis of capitalism more graphic and the urgency of socialist revolution more pressing.

That is the fighting theme of the first electoral campaign waged by the Spartacist League/US (SL/US) in more than a decade. SL/US supported, secured 2500 signatures — more than double the number needed — and beat back an anti-communist legal challenge to secure the party position. The campaign features the following:

- The party program, La Causa (The Cause) 1977-80, is designed to counteract the plans of the bourgeois reformers to save New York by handing over the city to the landlords 
- "Smash Big MAC!"
- Expropriate the banks and the blood-sucking utilities, Con Ed [electricity supply monopoly] and the phone company!
- Rescind the layoffs!
- Restore the budget cuts! Jobs for all — 20 hours work at 40 hours pay!

Race war or class war?

In the absence of a unifying class-struggle program the racial tensions already pervasive in this "melting pot" — exacerbated by the massive outflows and the traditional divide-and-rule strategy of the Democratic Party — could explode into full-scale race war, as the Crown Heights saga and the Watts riots of the 60s show.

When the cops wantonly murdered a young black man, black Democratic Party politicians directed the outrage of the area's black residents not into a united protest against police brutality but into a race-hate mobilization against the area's Jewish population, in a situation where rival black and Jewish vigilante squads already roamed the streets! In racist America, race war means racial genocide for the black masses.

The SWP and the other fake lefts criminally supported this pogromist mobilization.

The campaign grows out of a mass movement to liquidate the paternalistic union movement in New York City and build a truly independent working class vanguard party. Mindless violence is not the problem. What is the problem is the absence of an independent, revolutionary working class party, which opposes such violence in every instance.

To much of "Middle America," New York is a very ugly city that makes Quebec or Boston seem clean and genteel. Yet it also was the focal point of the major working class upsurge in the country, the heroic struggle of 1934-37 that helped us win the bloody war against the fascist Nazi invaders.

The working class has discovered that Black Power is black nationalism, which is racism in disguise. The workers don't want most of the politicians to continue to vote for what the capitalists tell them to vote for. They want a government that speaks for the workers! The workers are clamoring for a change of government. That change of government must be under workers control.

Spartacist candidate Marjorie Stamberg at campaign rally.

Spartacist candidate Marjorie Stamberg ran for mayor of New York City on a platform that not only exposed and criticized the policies of the reformist candidates, but also called for the radicalization of the workers and the launching of a mass movement to create a genuine workers' vanguard party.

"For a socialist fight to save New York!

Expropriate the banks and the blood-sucking utilities, Con Ed [electricity supply monopoly] and the phone company!... Rescind the layoffs!... Restore the budget cuts! Jobs for all — 20 hours work at 40 hours pay!"

The campaign was designed to counteract the plans of the bourgeois reformers to save New York by handing over the city to the landlords.

The campaign grew out of a mass movement to liquidate the paternalistic union movement in New York City and build a truly independent working class vanguard party. Mindless violence is not the problem. What is the problem is the absence of an independent, revolutionary working class party, which opposes such violence in every instance.

To much of "Middle America," New York is a very ugly city that makes Quebec or Boston seem clean and genteel. Yet it also was the focal point of the major working class upsurge in the country, the heroic struggle of 1934-37 that helped us win the bloody war against the fascist Nazi invaders.

The working class has discovered that Black Power is black nationalism, which is racism in disguise. The workers don't want most of the politicians to continue to vote for what the capitalists tell them to vote for. They want a government that speaks for the workers! The workers are clamoring for a change of government. That change of government must be under workers control.

Spartacist candidate Marjorie Stamberg ran for mayor of New York City on a platform that not only exposed and criticized the policies of the reformist candidates, but also called for the radicalization of the workers and the launching of a mass movement to create a genuine workers' vanguard party.

"For a socialist fight to save New York!

Expropriate the banks and the blood-sucking utilities, Con Ed [electricity supply monopoly] and the phone company!... Rescind the layoffs!... Restore the budget cuts! Jobs for all — 20 hours work at 40 hours pay!"

The campaign was designed to counteract the plans of the bourgeois reformers to save New York by handing over the city to the landlords.

The campaign grew out of a mass movement to liquidate the paternalistic union movement in New York City and build a truly independent working class vanguard party. Mindless violence is not the problem. What is the problem is the absence of an independent, revolutionary working class party, which opposes such violence in every instance.

To much of "Middle America," New York is a very ugly city that makes Quebec or Boston seem clean and genteel. Yet it also was the focal point of the major working class upsurge in the country, the heroic struggle of 1934-37 that helped us win the bloody war against the fascist Nazi invaders.

The working class has discovered that Black Power is black nationalism, which is racism in disguise. The workers don't want most of the politicians to continue to vote for what the capitalists tell them to vote for. They want a government that speaks for the workers! The workers are clamoring for a change of government. That change of government must be under workers control.

Spartacist candidate Marjorie Stamberg ran for mayor of New York City on a platform that not only exposed and criticized the policies of the reformist candidates, but also called for the radicalization of the workers and the launching of a mass movement to create a genuine workers' vanguard party.
Maoist ‘in the service of peanut king Carter’

Spartacist League debates

Albert Langer

The first organised public debate in Australia between the strongest proponents of Maoism and Trotskyism took place at La Trobe University on 12 October. Some 75 people crowded into Albert Langer, former leading cadre of the Peking-Loyal Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) (CPA(M-L)), the leading figure in the Trotskyist breakaway movement for Independence and Socialism (IS), confronts David Grumont, a member of the Spartacist League (SL) Central Committee, on the question: “Was the Soviet revolution a success, or is it going?” Was the USSR, as Langer argued, a “capitalist, imperialist and fascist power” to be opposed even through a bloc with NATO; or was it going?

Langer’s arguments covered the Trotskyist view of the political bankruptcy of Stalinism and of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Stalinism is a period of “fierce struggle” against the “fascist” forces in the world—“which invented Imperialism, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

Some and now the leading figure in the CPA(M-L) Central Committee, is a period of “fierce struggle” against the “fascist” forces in the world—“which invented Imperialism, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

Some and now the leading figure in the CPA(M-L) Central Committee, is a period of “fierce struggle” against the “fascist” forces in the world—“which invented Imperialism, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

Some and now the leading figure in the CPA(M-L) Central Committee, is a period of “fierce struggle” against the “fascist” forces in the world—“which invented Imperialism, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

Some and now the leading figure in the CPA(M-L) Central Committee, is a period of “fierce struggle” against the “fascist” forces in the world—“which invented Imperialism, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

As Grumont noted in his opening remarks, the choice of topic was “entirely appropriate”. Attitudes to the Soviet Union have cleared “a decisive dividing line... between reform and revolution within the international workers movement since the October Revolution. And by the conclusion of the two-hour debate and discussion it was clear that, as Grumont put it:

Langer’s position on the Russian question leads directly to being the most obvious appolo­gists for counterrevolution — a “Marxist- Leninist” in the service of that peanut king, Carter.

“Honest traitors”

Langer was not always simply a “Marxist” mouthpiece for the anti-Soviet designs of the imperialist L. L. Grumont, he belonged to that generation of leftist students initially won to revolutionary politics through subjective identifica­tion with the anti-imperialist struggle of the Vietnamese masses in the late sixties. But unlike Grumont, Langer — the most prominent Maoist student leader during the heyday of the New Left — significantly subordinated his subjective militancy to the desire to smash imperialist capitalism to the dictates of “Marxist-Leninist” dogmatis­m policy. Grumont broke with Maoism over such issues as Peking’s whiplash foreign policy for the capitalist Bandera-Nazi project. His reaction to the Maoist/Georgian-inspired ‘Trotskyism’ of the 1970s, and then to join the Trotskyist SL. At the time of the JVP rebellion, the CPA(M-L) paper Vanguard had carried an article from the La Trobe Maoist paper, Red Hour, by Grumont, then a member of the La Trobe Worker Student Defence Committee and the Pro-Soviet Marxist/CPL youth group, the Young Communist League, praising the JVP. — only to issue a cringing “self-criticism” weeks later as Peking’s role became clearer. Only after Mao’s successors had a falling out did Langer split from the CPA(M-L), proclaiming his allegiance to the deposed “Gang of Four”.

For five years the SL has been the only tendency in the Australian left to provide a coherent Marxist analysis of the political bankruptcy of Maoism. The choice of venue was fitting: the CPA(M-L) front group [Students for Australian Trotskyism versus Maoism]

China’s Alliance with Imperialism

$1.00

Why the USSR is Not Capitalist

David Grumont

Langer versus Lenin

In his presentation comrade Grumont dwelt on the Maoist theory that capitalism had been peacefully restored in the Soviet Union — a process Langer holds is now underway in China. — also simply because Trotsky’s rise to power put “bad ideas” in command. Calling this “subjective idealism run amok”, a repudiation of the Marxist understanding that an overthrow of property relations necessitated the violent smashing up of the state, Grumont said: “It is ludicrous to believe that I have been reduced and the sending of Shklov to the provinces... amounted to the smashing of the capitalist system. The Stalin-Bukharin leadership’s con­clusions to long-studied ‘tactics’ — part of the reactionary policy of building

Langer vs Marx, Lenin

“Dang of Four: Maoist Albert Langer — once an opponent of US imperialism, now apologist for NATO”

After accepting paid advertisements, both the CPA’s Tribune and the CPA’s Direct Action front compelled to hold meetings of their leading editorial bodies in order to remeg. The only SPW's petition of conflicting capitals and socialism was predicated upon the individual ownership and com­peting claims which capitalism, “fascism”, now apologist for NATO. But had the Left opposition to Stalin won out in the 1920s, opening the road to the Communist [Maoist] triumph of socialism, today there might well be no bureaucratic capitalism or even Maoists to label them ‘fascist’.”

Uniquely, Trotsky’s analysis of the Soviet Thermidor — the consolid­ation of a counterrevolutionary bureaucratic out of 1924 — has withstood the test of history.

Langer’s arguments offered neither a coherent — much less a Marxist - analysis nor a revol­utionary strategy derived from it. Nor could they. As the SL speaker pointed out, the Maoist “analysis” is “a dogma, a myth, a fabrication”. Peking’s “invasion” of the Soviet Union, the Triumphant victory over its “fascist” foreign reactionary forces in the world — NATO, the despised shah of Iran, fascist South Africa, the fascist Ustasha — against its Moscow puppet, Tito.

Mao defined capitalism to be predicated upon the individual ownership and com­petition of conflicting capitals and socialism to be a society, based on the elimination of scarcity and all class distinctions. For Langer socialism is a period of “fierce and protracted struggle” and the bourgeoisie in a [classless] socialist society is to be found right inside the Communist Party [the vanguard of the proletariat].”

Langer capitalism is not defined by private ownership of the means of production but by the existence of wage labour and commodity produc­tion. Which Marx pointed out in his “Critique of the Gotha Program” were characteristics of the lower phase of genuine, classless commu­nist society! Having agreed that capitalism re­quired a labour reserve of unemployed workforce, Langer went on to assert that a chronic labour shortage also “im­plies the anarchy of capitalism... In the final analysis, the listener finally burst out, ‘That’s not, Albert!‘”

An SL speaker from the floor attacked such wilful redenitions of basic Marxist terms: “Bourgeoisie in the CP? Hell, the bourgeoisie means something in Marxist terms. They’re the people who play a necessary economic role... not just people with ‘bad ideas’... they own capital....”

Langer could only retort that defining “a capitalism as someone who owns capital is wrong!”

For revolutionaries precise terminology and materialist theory are necessary to determine a

Continued on page seven
Late last month Ramon Mercader del Rio, the man who on 20 August 1940 murdered Leon Trotsky, died of bone cancer in Havana, Cuba. Thus ended the life of a desplicable being who would have been happily ignored by history had he not 38 years ago struck the crowing blow to the greatest political crime of this century: Stalin's systematic assassination of the entire leadership of the Communist parties of capitalist countries; the Marxist leader who carried forward the spirit of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Mercader's counterrevolutionary blow with a mountain narrettix (often called the vendetta) that struck down the man who together with Lenin led the October Revolution; the founder of the heroic Red Army, which prevailed in a terrible Civil War against fascist armies in Spain and in communist revolutionary forces in capitalist countries; the Marxist leader who carried forward the flame of Bolshevism in the darkest days of fascist barbarism and Stalinist betrayal. We neither forgive nor forget Mercader's infamous crime, and we bitterly regret that like his master, Stalin-Cain, this vile assassin died in obscurity in dachas in Moscow and finally in a guesthouse of ICXV in Havana, after being exiled from the Soviet Union.

The assassin unmasked

Despite Vermand-Mercader's sealed lips, the murder of Trotsky was not forgotten and over the years a series of revelations from every quarter have confirmed his true identity.

Theories circulate in Mexico that Mercader had been trained and ultimately killed by Stalin's secret police, whose initials -- so it had to be excused with frame-up trials and big lie propaganda, or else hidden and denied. Ramon Mercader's single notable fact in life was so odious that he could not show his face even in the countries dominated by the Kremlin, where his parasitic masters had served.

Mercader del Rio, dating from 1935--the typical type of assassin unmasked... in the typical dirty confession in the typical GPU style, claiming to be a member of the Fourth International... the typical story of Jacques Mornard... once again in death Trotsky disproved the theory of the professional murderers... the typical spectacle of the 1930s, falsely advertised as the Crime of Trotsky... the typical confession....

Once again in death Trotsky disproved the so-called "confessions"... a new attempt on his life would soon come and the "assassins may use Trotskyist label"... Stalin's systematic assassination of the entire leadership of the Communist parties of capitalist countries... The PCI's refusal to acknowledge its own direct participation... Ramon Mercader, assassin of Trotsky, was released from jail in Mexico City in May 1960 declared to the press: "I killed a man for ideological motives..." In October 1978 Ramon Mercader, assassin of Trotsky, unrepentant to the end, died in bed in Havana, a guest of the government of Fidel Castro.

The sole aim of wiping out any vestige of revolutionary opposition to the usurpers in the Kremlin, anywhere on the globe. The Moscow Trials liquidated the Bolshevik Old Guard and passed the death sentence on Trotsky. Ramon Mercader, a desppicable man with less than the morals of a Mafia trigger man, was the executioner.

The Mexican Communist Party and various of its bedfellows also on the GPU payroll constantly proclaimed that the masses of the working people fervently desired Trotsky's expulsion from the country. However, the funeral procession through the streets of Mexico City on August 22 demonstrated the emptiness of this lie. Huge crowds swelled the procession route -- 100,000 in all -- gathering to pay their last respects to the great revolutionary, slain by the hand of Stalin. The PCI's refusal to acknowledge its own direct participation in the assassination until today, almost four decades later, demonstrates that the "kill Trotsky" campaign was a hateful deed, universally despised, which they had to hide instead of crow about.

Next issue:

How the Stalinists planned Trotsky's murder

AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST November 1978 Page Five
British fascists... Continued from page eight
Party and its Australian namesake (the INM's sister group which actively defends free speech for fascists). After warning that "ALL CALLS TO CANCEL CAR-NIVAL 2 should come to nothing" the INM adds: "Of course Brick Lane must be de- ferred and supporters in the East End will be ready to respond to any NF raepage. The ANL is also prepared to strike off 2000 more of its supporters in the East End if they do not. But we proceed and say that we are no longer the Nazis..."
(Central Cabinet, 6 October 1977). And now these hypocrites fail to object to state bans upon Popular Front, which beat to the reformist leaders of the immi- grants.

"Return to Lewisham?" HOPING to fish in Sniper/IMG troubled waters, the small centrist International-Communist-International League (ICIL) on October 5, 1978,伪ANL march in Tameside: the demonstration that day were the force that pressed. But the events of Lewisham shared with the activist, the theoretical and practical anti-fascist movement the issue of self-defence not based on mass action, but on a small body of armed volunteers. They wanted, said the merchants, "Keep the force of the CNL out of the city and educate the people to defeat the Nazis...

Iran... Continued from page one
At weekend, a major strike by the Iranian National Bank, oil workers in 1952 which sparked the movement to the Shah's son in November 1978. The tremendous social power of the working... and particularly the strikes' spon­...Shah has undertaken ferocious repression against...in one main point that we want to...of a much-needed new expressway on Manhattan's..." Of course Brick Lane must be de- deferred and supporters in the East End will be ready to respond to any NF raepage. The ANL is also prepared to strike off 2000 more of its supporters in the East End if they do not. But we proceed and say that we are no longer the Nazis..."
(Central Cabinet, 6 October 1977). And now these hypocrites fail to object to state bans upon Popular Front, which beat to the reformist leaders of the immi- grants.

"Return to Lewisham?" HOPING to fish in Sniper/IMG troubled waters, the small centrist International-Communist-International League (ICIL) on October 5, 1978,伪ANL march in Tameside: the demonstration that day were the force that pressed. But the events of Lewisham shared with the activist, the theoretical and practical anti-fascist movement the issue of self-defence not based on mass action, but on a small body of armed volunteers. They wanted, said the merchants, "Keep the force of the CNL out of the city and educate the people to defeat the Nazis...

Iran... Continued from page one
At weekend, a major strike by the Iranian National Bank, oil workers in 1952 which sparked the movement to the Shah's son in November 1978. The tremendous social power of the working... and particularly the strikes' spon­...Shah has undertaken ferocious repression against...in one main point that we want to...of a much-needed new expressway on Manhattan's..." Of course Brick Lane must be de- deferred and supporters in the East End will be ready to respond to any NF raepage. The ANL is also prepared to strike off 2000 more of its supporters in the East End if they do not. But we proceed and say that we are no longer the Nazis..."
(Central Cabinet, 6 October 1977). And now these hypocrites fail to object to state bans upon Popular Front, which beat to the reformist leaders of the immi- grants.

"Return to Lewisham?" HOPING to fish in Sniper/IMG troubled waters, the small centrist International-Communist-International League (ICIL) on October 5, 1978,伪ANL march in Tameside: the demonstration that day were the force that pressed. But the events of Lewisham shared with the activist, the theoretical and practical anti-fascist movement the issue of self-defence not based on mass action, but on a small body of armed volunteers. They wanted, said the merchants, "Keep the force of the CNL out of the city and educate the people to defeat the Nazis...

Iran... Continued from page one
At weekend, a major strike by the Iranian National Bank, oil workers in 1952 which sparked the movement to the Shah's son in November 1978. The tremendous social power of the working... and particularly the strikes' spon­...Shah has undertaken ferocious repression against...in one main point that we want to...of a much-needed new expressway on Manhattan's..." Of course Brick Lane must be de- deferred and supporters in the East End will be ready to respond to any NF raepage. The ANL is also prepared to strike off 2000 more of its supporters in the East End if they do not. But we proceed and say that we are no longer the Nazis..."
(Central Cabinet, 6 October 1977). And now these hypocrites fail to object to state bans upon Popular Front, which beat to the reformist leaders of the immi- grants.
between merciless profit-gouging and taking "human rights" hypocrisy. The SNP has even gone so far as to portray what it passes off as the "transiti
on" in their French counterpart has already taken the bit between the teeth, so to speak, in an attempt to appeal as a group to the international community to prevent the restoration of bourgeois rule without the workers' participation. The SNP's public歌舞剧 comes dangerously close to being complicit in the restoration of bourgeois rule in an attempt to gain international sympathy and support. The SNP's actions are nothing less than an attempted (in violation of international law) intervention in the internal affairs of another country.

The Spartacist League has consistently been a vocal opponent of such actions, and has not been afraid to challenge the SNP's hypocrisy. The League has called for a united front of workers' organizations to resist the SNP's violations of international law and to stand in solidarity with the working class of Ireland in their fight for freedom and independence.

Spartacist League
ASMLP, March 2023
The long economic decay of British imperialism has reached the point where the living standards of its workers are now lower than those in Spain. Simultaneously, a significant black and Asian population, the after-effect of a once great colonial empire, is living in the ghettos of Britain's major cities. These explosive social conditions have spawned a racist anti-immigration crisis such as gangs are destined to become and through non-white immigrant neighbourhoods and carry out vicious thug attacks on immigrants.

Martin "Magic" Robinson described on 24 September when close to 1200 ANL supporters had to be stopped from marching with impunity. In a leaflet distributed at the Brick Lane anti-fascist demonstration, the Socialist League/Britain (SL/B -- sympathetic section of the International Spartacist tendency) demanded:

"THIS CARNIVAL SHOULD BE CALLED OFF IMMEDIATELY! & AT EASE! Everyone who seriously wants the fascists to be crushed should be in the East End today. Anyone who goes to Brick Lane with the Cameronite SCABBING on this struggle...."

The 50-strong SL/B contingent was the largest at Brick Lane and the only one to raise slogans openly attacking the ANL's betrayal.

The SWP, (whose Australian co-thinkers are known as the International Socialists) launched the ANL last year after a series of inconclusive confrontations in the streets between the "Far Left", the fascists and police, most notably at Lewisham (see SWP no 46, September 1977), and again in Islington in September. Needless to say, the fascists' right to go to Brixton was not denied.

20 August 1977 Socialist Worker headed advertized "In the face of fascism of any kind, promising "we'll do it again". But they didn't -- 6 May 1978 issue enthuses over "nagging" ANL "carnivals".

The 24 September "carnival" directly scabbled an anti-fascist line. (ANL), the main anti-fascist "alliance", mobilised sixty to one hundred thousand people to Hyde Park for its second Fun and "Magic" Carnival. Incredibly, they marched from the opposite direction -- to Brixton where, according to the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the driving force behind the ANL. "The sun was out, the faces of the people were bright, happy...... All was celebration. We were in the Novel, 28 September. For more than two weeks, immigrant groups in the East End led small left-wing organisations had repeatedly called on the ANL to mobilise its forces to stop the fascists. But now, in Brixton......" Tony Cliff -- Sympathetic ST/BR/1 -- CV 100,000 people tried to throw cans through the mouth of a model of Martin Webster. "The mistake was political", another added: "The SWP is in danger of treating the ANL as a popular front.... Tony Cliff more or less admitted this...."

It was no exaggeration that the Carnival was a starting point that has caused a deep disturbance in the SWF's own ranks. One of a spate of critical letters to Socialist Worker appeared bitterly (14 October): "And should you be one of the thousand of anti-fascists who have defended Brick Lane you might have felt sick that the Nazis were allowed a victory while 100,000 people tried to throw cans through the mouth of a model of Martin Webster. "The mistake was political", another added. "The SWP is in danger of treating the ANL as a popular front.... Tony Cliff more or less admitted this...." To all those of his followers asking, in effect, "why are we betraying", Cliff replied with pathetic demagogy: "To demand from our allies in the ANL that they agree with ALL the letters of our socialist alphabet was quite rightly avoided by us" (Spartacist Worker, 7 October). Cliff's attempt to confuse the ANL with a united front for anti-fascist action is hopeless because this pretence has now been blown sky-high.

The SWP's feeble excuses don't hold a candle to the arguments of the International Marxist Group (IMG). These same people who used to pour out conference papers with the cops as an anti-fascist strategy now positively glory in the ANL's betrayal. The back page headline of the 28 September Socialist Challenge asks: "Were we right to go to Brixton? And defiantly responds: YES! YES! YES!" While the SWP kept Carnival marchers away from Brick Lane by lying, the IMG helpfully provided a political alibi in a leaflet entitled "Unity for Mass Action -- Only Way to Build Self-Defence". The arguments in the leaflet -- repeated and elaborated in the subsequent Spartacist Challenge article -- are strongly reminiscent of the socialist-flyer the American Socialist Workers