Solidarność
Counterrevolution
Checked

We reprint below the article, originally headlined "Power Bid Spiked", which was written immediately following the December military crackdown in Poland. It is from the 18 December Workers Vanguard, fortnightly paper of the Spartacist League/US.

The Polish crackdown has greatly frustrated the plans of US imperialism and NATO ruling circles who saw in the eruption of the pro-Western anti-communist Solidarność a historic chance, the best since World War II, to drive Soviet power back to Russian borders. If the Americans were taken off guard by the Polish counter coup, it's because they were counting on a Russian takeover. Now with the crackdown against Solidarność by the Polish army, the US has resorted to economic warfare against the Soviet degenerated workers state. So long as the West Germans and Japan don't follow suit - and they adamantly say they won't - Reagan's sanctions will end up hurting American capitalists more than the Soviet Union.

Even the Australians, counted along with Thatcher's Britain as among US imperialism's most slavishly loyal allies, have offered nothing more than verbal support to the last grain embargo when US exporters moving in at their expense once the restrictions were lifted. When questioned on the US sanctions, ALP opposition leader Bill Hayden fully endorsed the Fraser government's stance, cautiously remarking that Reagan was "well meaning", but like Fraser finding too costly the price of Australian participation (Age: 18 January). According to the Sydney Morning Herald (24 December 1981) Australian business has something in the order of one billion dollars worth of lines of wheat, wool, meat and rice to protect.

The most significant opposition within the "Western Alliance" to making Poland the casus belli of Cold War II has come from the West Germans who - and for good reason - fear the outbreak of World War III on German soil. But Soviet imperialism is no pacifist, and they are certainly not "patsies for the Russkies" as some in the Reagan administration would have it. German imperialism has a long-term strategy for regaining Prussia and Saxony (East Germany) - not to mention Silesia and East Prussia - and dominating the rest of Eastern Europe, centrally by subverting the region economically and then making a deal with the Kremlin. Having failed to break the UGSR militarily in the last war, German imperialism prefers for now to undermine the Soviet bloc from within. If the German social democrats have played it very cool over Poland, their French counterparts have sought to whip up anti-Soviet frenzy, challenged on this score only by the Italian Eurocommunists who want a definitive break with Moscow (see article back page). These sharp divisions are dramatic evidence of how the reformists defend and express, above all, the interests of their own bourgeoisie. While German capital sees its interests in national reunification and further economic penetration of East Europe, Mitterrand's program is one of protectionism, austerity and anti-Soviet militarism, at the same time serving as the ideological spearhead of "democratic socialist" counterrevolution in the Soviet bloc.

The Polish masses, undeniably infuriated with the capitalist West, should know that Poland cannot break with Russia without a major new war which would again mean their ruin. Counterrevolution in Poland would mean a capitalist reunification of Germany, creating a powerful imperialist juggernaut in Central Europe with no room for the Poles, except perhaps as agricultural labourers. As the soldiers in those funny helmets start marching east again, Poles would necessarily embrace Russian army boots for protection. Those who think that General Jaruzelski's counter coup is the same as Nazi rule would be brutally disabused of this notion.

For now Solidarność's counterrevolutionary power grab has been blocked. The general strike or armed resistance that could have forced a bloody confrontation, hardening the present disastrous lines of division, fortunately did not occur. As Trotskyists we seek a political reconsolidation within the Polish working class and the forging of a proletarian vanguard, tempered in the struggle against clerical-nationalist counterrevolution. The perspective of Russian-Polish workers unity in defence of proletarian state power, and necessarily directed against the Stalinist bureaucracies, can alone offer a socialist resolution to the crisis of Polish society.

DECEMBER 15 - With the imposition of a "state of war" in Poland, a counterrevolutionary grab for power has been checked. Just hours before the proclamation of military rule, the clerical-nationalist leadership of Solidarność announced it was organizing a national referendum on forming an anti-Communist government and breaking the military alliance with the Soviet Union against Western imperialism. The Warsaw regime was ready to take up the challenge. The actual steps taken go far beyond those usually described as martial law, and they seem to have made considerable preparations for the crackdown. So while Reagan and Haig were chasing their Qaddafi will-o'-the-wisp, the Polish government, at what appears to have been the last possible moment to make a move based on power, launched a virtual counter coup.

The Polish Stalinists managed to pull off an effective coup d'état in their own country. Contrary to every instinct and appetite of the ruling bureaucracy, constantly seeking accommodation with imperialism, they were forced to take measures defending historic gains of the proletariat. For it must be recognized that...
So Lech Walesa is *Time* magazine’s “man of the year” — “Lech Everoyal,” they dubbed him, “the courageous little electrician from Gdansk” who “led a crusade for freedom.” In addition to a lengthy personality profile (during his “Early in the morning their [Soli­
daosc] delegation has taken the
computerized agency bus to Warsaw airport. 
After a couple of stops the Polish
unionists reach Maxim’s, an American
airport restaurant. It’s 8:30 a.m. In front of
the restaurant, a group of CJS pilots
are having breakfast. 20-odd Americans receive
Walesa and his friends.

Discretion and Mum’s the word

“These businesses arrived two hours
earlier, by a special airplane ... Here’s
some wonderful dirty laundry —
expensive, too. Philip Caldwell, presi-
dent of Ford, Robert Tetry, president of
Westinghouse, David Lewis, ditto for
General Motors; Henry Kissinger, repre-
senting the food/agriculture group of
both IBM bigwig. Plus a TWA v.i.p. and
several potentates of only slightly lesser
importance on their way, including the
chairmen ...”

For this crowd Lech Walesa,
considered a valuable head of
belligerents in the West, the
threats and discussions begin. A system
of simultaneous translation is in place,
proof that on the American side in any
conference our colleagues seemed determined to
make them admit a secret penchant for
capitalism.” So now it is revealed
that while Le Monde was denouncing
a Trotskyist slam against Walesa’s “simple
traitor” that Solidarnosc was Based on
an appeal for free elections in France.

Politicians need to be careful with
their words. Some things are
covered by a blanket of secrecy.

Solidarnosc bids for power

At its first national congress, held
in Gdansk in September, Solidarnosc
consolidated around a program of open
democracy and capitalism. Its appeal for
“free trade unions” in the Soviet bloc, long a
central slogan for Cold War anti-
Communism, was dismissed as “irrele-
cation to Moscow. Behind its call for
shareholders to have a say in running
the industry was an attempt to achieve
democracy under the guise of capitalist
government. To underscore their ties to
the West, Solidarnosc even demanded
that the government allow a separate
cartel, the International Monetary Fund (IMF),
and invited to its congress in
Kirkland, the hardline Cold Warrior head of
the American AFL-CIO, and notorious CIA
operator Irving Brown and opening
a US "press bureau" in the offices of
State Department’s Deputy
Shanker’s United Federation of Teachers,
we warned: “Stop Solidarity’s Counter-
revolution!" The Federation called the
conference a "counterrevolution," read the Socialist pamphlet, Solid-
arity: Polish Company Union for
CIA and Bankers.

Available now!  
$1.00  
(Solidarnosc pamphlet on Poland available in English, Spanish and Italian languages.  
Order from/pay to:  
Spartacist Publications  
GPO Box 3473  
Sydney NSW 2001)

Imperialism and "Liberal" Stalinism

"Free trade unions" and "free elec-
tions" for Poland have become key
slogans in Reagan’s Cold War II, and the imposition of martial law will certainly
be used to fuel the anti-Soviet war drive, especially in West Europe. In France, in particular, mass-pro-Solidarnosc demonstra-
tions have been held, led by Socialist party leaders, producing a "holy union" running from the fascists, royalists and Gay right-wing groupings throughout Europe.  
In the US, imperialist war criminal Henry Kissinger, a man directly respon-
sible for the murder of millions of
defenseless Vietnamese, condemns the anti-Soviet war as a "moral" or "grave offense against human freedom".

When Kissinger speaks of "freedom" he means freedom for the capitalists, workers and peasants of the world, a "freedom" maintained by terror and torture.

Continued on page 2
We're Looking for Some Hard Young Communists

SL Polaronized Shah troops demo, defending Vietnam/USSR, attacking Australian imperialism

region, sharply marked us out as the core of Australia.

A central task projected by the conference was fighting to establish the SL as the Trotskyist pole in the workers movement against our fake-left opponents. The past period has seen a dramatic shift to the right on the part of the left, many of whom have sought to “come in from the cold” war drive through liquidation into the Labour Party. Over Poland the various social-democratic tendencies—the fake-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the “third camp” International Socialists and the larger, more radical Eurocommunists—have all sought to make their bid for power. For us, he pointed out, the absence of widespread organised resistance which could have made a bloody showdown could be of critical significance. Now at least there is the possibility of solidifying along new lines and the forging of a Leninist-Trotskyist value line necessary to defence of proletarian state power while fighting for political revolution to our discredited Stalinist bureaucracy.

While we do not have the means to discuss Poland, we note that the reporter stressed the importance of and, in some cases, the spectacular opposition of the international attaches in Poland. For example, our Italian comrade Rodolfo de Curtis, writing from a facility of the Italian-language Spartacist pamphlet on Poland, mainly to workers around the PCF, discussed the recent events in Poland provided the major focus for the international report to the conference. Pointing out that US imperialism had been taken off guard by the counter coup in Poland the reporter noted the evident effectiveness of the military crackdown in at least temporarily checking Solidarity’s counterrevolution—imperialist war drive is for working-class independence.

Most discussion at the conference centered on using our unique political capital to recruit. Our recruitment will be against anti-Soviet fervor from and against Laborism. As the conference document stated, “We are the party that defends the Soviet Union and Vietnam, that hate the race, racial, antiwoman chauvinism of ‘little Australia’ nationalism, that swans against the stream of pervasive Laborism, that stands for ‘build picket lines, don’t cross them!’”

SL Polaronized Shah troops demo, defending Vietnam/USSR, attacking Australian imperialism

as junior partner of US imperialism in this region, this does not, however, prevent them from cashing in on pacific, anti-war sentiment. During the Vietnam war the ALP kept the anti-war movement within the framework of pro-capitalist pacifism and isolationism. Today the social democrats and bourgeois liberals oppose the Stalin front as ‘fascist’. This is particularly to the fore.

Defence of the Soviet Union against the imperialist war drive is the question of profound clarity and importance. Its centrality to our tasks and growth was a continuing theme throughout the conference. Recent significant events in Vietnam provided the major focus for the international report to the conference. Pointing out that US imperialism had been taken off guard by the counter coup in Poland the reporter noted the evident effectiveness of the military crackdown in at least temporarily checking Solidarity’s counterrevolution—imperialist war drive is for working-class independence.

Perhaps it’s worth observing that Polish Solidarity and hates Australian imperialism. While fighting for political revolution to our discredited Stalinist bureaucracy.

Also, while we do not have the means to discuss these events, we note that the reporter stressed the importance of and, in some cases, the spectacular opposition of the international attaches in Poland. For example, our Italian comrade Rodolfo de Curtis, writing from a facility of the Italian-language Spartacist pamphlet on Poland, mainly to workers around the PCF, discussed the recent events in Poland provided the major focus for the international report to the conference. Pointing out that US imperialism had been taken off guard by the counter coup in Poland the reporter noted the evident effectiveness of the military crackdown in at least temporarily checking Solidarity’s counterrevolution—imperialist war drive is for working-class independence.

The Spartacist League/ANZ held its national conference. At that time, against the background of the American, Soviet and European crises, the conference document stated, “without the American crisis, the whole of our strategy and tactics mean don’t shape it. This is not the occasion for identifying with and carrying forward today the banner of Bolshevism. They are the first, and thus far the only ones to lead a proletariat, conscious of its own interests, in its own interests. It is with pride that we trace the roots of our small tendency in the great Russian Revolution. As the speaker on SI history noted, “the slogans that we are the party of the Russian Revolution. And that’s not simply a propaganda exercise, it’s not simply a question of standing on the gains of October and on the lessons of the Russian Revolution. Through the American Trotskyists we can claim honestly to have links and continuity with the Russian Revolution. . . . The left opposition in the CPA, the CPGB and the SWP [James P] Cannon, but not simply him, became Trotskyist. And then through the 30s they were able to work very closely with Trotsky. . . . Moreover, with the events leading up to the second world war and also in places like Vietnam, the events after the second world war, many of the other capable leaders of the Fourth International were killed either by the Nazis in France or by the Soviet secret police. The American cadre became a key centre of survival of the Trotskyists who escaped to the US in the second world war. These particular, if you like the exceptions, are really key to explaining why our tendency springs out of the American SWP and from the American location. . . . To do that we need to go with ties that go back to the Russian Revolution. The proud traditions on which we stand, the proud traditions of Marxism-Leninism, are in fact that of the Russian Bolsheviks, not sentimental but ground us in those methods and program that alone off the working masses an alternative to imperialist irradiated barbarism. And for those who want a future the fight for communism is the only hope.3

February 1982
Reprinted below is a Spartacist League leaflet on Poland and the Australian left's obscene defence of Solidarity, the only “union” in the world backed by Ronald Reagan and the Pope. Appropriately titled, “Over Poland!” the leaflet nails the “democratic socialists” who scandalously joined hands at a series of protests against the military crackdown with anti-communist East European emigres of the type who fled to this land of the free one step ahead of the Red Army’s vengeance after fighting on the Fascist side in World War II. The leaflet was handed out at the “Poland Today” session of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA)'s Marxist Summer School, held in January. This annual effort to present itself as an all-inclusive umbrella for the social-democratic left was notably smaller in attendance this year than the last, lacking in lustre, reflecting the CPA’s current disarray in which the Polish establishment now has a free hand.

Sure enough, the session on Poland drew a broad sprinkling of the Australian left. The fake-Trotskist Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the “third camp” like the Workers of the World, and the Independent Socialist Workers (IS), the unavowed entrepreneur and ALP “left” operator Bob Gould (whom the CPA seemed an opening within the declining and deeply pessimistic CPA. Even Greens中国国际ists like American imperialism’s hope for a Poland While calling for a “transition to socialism”, Freney not, after all, be in “transition from capitalism to socialism”. Freney challenged the mainly CPA audience that it was no “crime against socialism” to want non-alignment and a break from the Warsaw Pact or to want “free elections”. Not a single CPAer in the audience rose to address the issue at all.

When Spartacist speakers, who alone defended proletarian state power in Poland while calling for a political revolution to oust the Stalinist bureaucracy, pointed to Walasea’s secret meetings with top US businessmen in Paris (see article this issue), Freney responded: so what if Walasea wanted “a little bit of money, a little bit of understanding” for the Polish economy from these leading figures of capitalist industry and high finance! Others, like Gould, simply lied through their teeth: “The Western bourgeoisie have come out solidly behind the Solidarity coup. The Western bourgeoisie are solidly behind the maintenance of the Soviet border in Poland”. Thoroughly clear.

So Reagan didn’t impose sanctions against the Soviet Union. Or to believe the CIA, the anti-Soviet war drive is merely a pretext for an assault on the “Green Revolution”. Certainly the Wall Street Journal, that important mouthpiece for US finance capital, isn’t shy about its “People’s Front” in defence of Solidarity. “If the coup succeeds in crushing Solidarity, we capitalists will join the democratic socialists in mourning”, the Journal editorialised (16 December 1981).

Likewise, contrary to the myth that the Western bankers support Jaruzelski, the consortium of Western banks holding the Polish debt refused Warsaw’s request for an additional loan to cover their interest payments, expecting the Russians to pay up. The London Economist summed up this policy of imperialist collaboration: “a Poland without a free Solidarity is not worth rescuing.”

Though the CPA, SWP, Gould et al have tried their damnedest to deny it, there is an uneasy alliance over Poland directed against the Soviet degenerated workers state and they are part of it. The powerful Western imperialist socialists who sit in the Vatican and the White House, along with their poorer cousins in Canberra, are united in the aim of restoring capitalism in the Soviet bloc. Only those who defend the historic gains of October can lead our class internationally to victory in sweeping away our capitalist masters once and for all. This is the task of authentic Marxists.

Solidarnosc placed ideologically Pilsudski, fascistic dictator of pre-war Poland, Fako-left allied with this pro-imperialist, clerical nationalist movement in Poland as movement for “the first democracy”.

On the barricades for counterrevolution

At a 14 December protest at the Sydney Polytechnic, CPA/Fake-Trotskyism on Barricades for Counterrevolution, the leader of the “Free Poles” demonstration, Charles Weyman, to solidarise with them on their “left” platform. When Mr Weyman’s “constituency” arrived, replete with “Captive Nations” banners and signs like “Down with Red Fascism in Poland”, SWPers taunted a Spartacist photographer they were too good to pose with them, even giving clenched fist salutes to these anti-communist scum who make the reactionary crowd grow, they prudently left. At a Melbourne demonstration on the same day the SWP/P invited to join a 500-strong “Free Poles” demo who “scorned the opportunity” not, since the proposition is perfectly consistent for the IS, Cold War “socialists” who equate US imperialism with Stalinism to unite staggers. Two years ago, following the Red Army intervention into Afghanistan, they suffered a similar reactionary demoralisation in Melbourne that comprised not only “Captive Nations” banners but notorious Nazi Ross “Skull” May. The difference this time is that the supposedly Soviet-deflected SWP is trying to oust the IS in its anti-Soviet fanaticism. Demagogic SWP hooligan Jim Percy claimed to the Sydney Morning Herald (13 January) that “his party was the most closely aligned to Solidarity in Australia”. If the cap fits then wear it but it is the anti-communist “Free Poles” that wear it while it makes up the local “Solidarity chapters”, not the SWP. Even Percy’s craven mentors in the American SWP, who reversed their anti-Soviet Afghan line in fear of Reagan’s election, felt embarrassed participating in the ultrarightist pro-Solidarity demos in the US and belatedly pulled out.

The CPA, unlike the SWP, IS or the rabidly anti-Soviet Laborite grouplets around Bob Gould or Paul White’s Socialist Fight who desperately wanted the clerical-nationalist Solidarity to take power, ludicrously stands for “italian reconciliation” while supporting Solidarity and condemning the crackdown. This is an untenable position, reflecting lingering remnants of its Euro-communist hopes for “socialist renewal” through internal reform of the bureaucracy. But the current Polish crisis is the product of the utterance of precisely this reform Stalinism, Dukeshok- style, twice over - first Comunika, then Gierek. Decades of Stalinism, mass-mismanagement and unprofitable sporting their Solidarnosc T-shirts and waving Polish nationalist flags. This disgusting line-up is no accident. This is not Hungary 1956 where Trotskyists backed the workers councils calling for anti-Stalinist political revolution while it was demonstrated, anti-Stalinist counterrevolution led by Cardinal Mindszenty. There is no such polariation today. Ronald Reagan, Fraser, the Pope, ultrarightist and fascistic emigres, the Wall Street Journal, all the CPA and SWP, IS et al at this summer school - all call for “solidarity with Solidarnosc”.

Anti Red Front Over Poland

The Polish military crackdown against Solidarity following its threat to set up an anti-communist government and break from the Warsaw Pact sent political reverberations around the world. American imperialism’s hopes for a “free Poland” on the Soviet border, whether or at least Soviet intervention and a nationalist bloodbath to whip up their anti-Soviet drive have been utterly frustrated. Jaruzelski’s military takeover appears to have effectively checked, for the time being, Solidarity’s counter-revolutionary bid for power. And it is by far the best interests of the Polish working class that it be suppressed as quickly and bloodlessly as possible.

Poland was key to Reagan/Haig’s drive to “roll back” Communism, setting the stage for nuclear war they believe they can win against the Soviet Union. Caught by surprise and at loggerheads with their West German imperialist allies over anti-Soviet strategy Reagan has replied with sanctions which though superficially represent imperialist economic warfare against the USSR and must be opposed by all class-conscious workers. But it is the “democratic socialists” inter-groups who have mobilised for counterrevolutionary reaction in the streets, willing accomplices in helping Reagan/Haig manufacture a “democratic”, “anti-Stalinist” cover for their bungled coup. Whileational particularly differ, from Mitterand’s anti-Soviet Socialists in France to Italy’s Euro-communists to fake-Trotkystas like the SWP and “State Department socialist” groupings in the US, the pro-Solidarity protests everywhere are anti-Red coalitions including in almost every instance hardened anti-communists and openly fascistic elements. This has been just as true in Australia where groups like the fake-Trotkyst Socialists Workers Party (SWP), the International Socialists (IS) and the Communist Party (CPA) have joined comment to support a tool fascist fringe, the whole sordid cabal of Western bankers holding the Polish debt refused Warsaw’s request for an additional loan to cover their interest payments, expecting the Russians to pay up. The London Economist summed up this policy of imperialist collaboration: “a Poland without a free Solidarity is not worth rescuing.”

The Western imperialist socialists who sit in the Vatican and the White House, along with their poorer cousins in Canberra, are united in the aim of restoring capitalism in the Soviet bloc. Only those who defend the historic gains of October can lead our class internationally to victory in sweeping away our capitalist masters once and for all. This is the task of authentic Marxists.
Sixty-six spokesmen of a veritable who’s who of the anti-communist right in Australia. Concerned only to prove their “democratic” anti-Soviet credentials by supporting any movement against the CPA, SWP, IS etc have worked overtime to paint Solidarity as “socialist”, fighting for “political revolution”, ignoring the US position and writing off the influence of the powerful Catholic Church as irrelevant or even pro-Stalinist. Urging Solidarity on to seize power, they reveal an appetite at bottom for an anti-socialist putsch, for a bloodbath with misguided Polish workers throwing Molotov cocktails at Soviet tanks would be far more to their liking than the “anti-Soviet” mass movement going. And from Reagan and Fraser down through the Laborite parliamentarians and trade-union bureaucrats to the self-proclaimed “socialists”, “the Polish workers” have become a holy talisman to hide the real sinister intentions of the US.

But many workers in the West know instinctively that Solidarity is not for them. They are sick to death of the Red scare and pro-Stalinist bandwagon, they call them themselves to “democracy” and NATO. But the militant Italian proletariat rejected them, the Bologna worker who replied to union organisers, “I don’t sing for the Madonna of Castrochova” (New York Times, 19 December). Similarly in this country, the experience of Catholics organising in the unions, the anti-communist switch of the 50s and the

Full blown for fear of a premature confrontation, although there was plenty of evidence. At its September congress it had put forward a program — “free elections” to a bourgeois parliament, a market economy and abolition of central planning (“self-management”), entry into the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a call for the CIA/ Radio Free Europe campaign of “free trade union” throughout the Soviet bloc — which stumped it as decisively pro-capitalist. This program in power, placing the crisis-ridden Polish economy at the mercy of the IMF, would mean mass unemployment, wage cuts, soaring inflation, and destruction of social services that would make Thatcher’s Britain look like workers’ paradise. Needless to say it would have been accompanied by a ruthless white terror against all in its path and WWII would have been that much closer.

Now that it is out in the open the CPA can only mumble that Solidarity’s tactics were “propaganda” and mirror its own. The more ever bizarre SWP flatly denies that Solidarity was making a bid for power (but supports such a course anyhow). Ironically, their “revolutionary heroics” described the same events as “preparing for a counterrevolutionary coup” (Granma, 27 December 1981). As for the IS and Solidarity “they were already backing the Solidarity ‘millitants’ (grouped around the neo-Plisner) and anti-Semitical Campaign for an Independent Poland (KPN). Now it is clear that the difference between the ‘moderates’ and the ‘millitants’ in Solidarity’s leadership were simply questions of style and posture, not their fundamentally anti-communist aims.

The international Spartacist tendency drew the conclusions last September as Solidarity took up the Cold War propaganda themes of “free elections”, “free trade unions” throughout Eastern Europe. Stop Solidarity’s “Counterrevolution!” we said, before it is too late. Now the danger of counterrevolution has been locked, but the fundamental crisis of Polish society has not been resolved. But if some sort of social equilibrium is restored then once again conditions exist for the crystallisation of a Leninist-Trotskyst vanguard and a perspective of proletarian political revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracies for the pro-Moscow Socialists of Australia (SPA) it can only rely on a purged and reburied bureaucratic caste and保利anna hopes for the future. But the SPA also faces the spectre of the Russian question in its ranks with a sizeable trade-unionist opposition being pulled in a social-democratic direction. Detente in a shambles and a warlike bourgeoisie uninterested in “socialism” and its aims with the workers states. A Trotskyist regroupment in Poland, steered in the lessons of the nationalisation threat and the revolutionary unity with the Russian workers on the basis of its unconditional defiance of the Soviet bloc against imperialism, must be rooted in uncompromising organisation against just the corrupt Stalinist bureaucracies.

Solidarity is Poland’s DLP/Groupers

As for the social-democratic left they are unashamedly bowing with the generals. Concerned only to prove their “democratic” anti-Soviet credentials by supporting any movement against the CPA, SWP, IS etc have worked overtime to paint Solidarity as “socialist”, fighting for “political revolution”, ignoring the US position and writing off the influence of the powerful Catholic Church as irrelevant or even pro-Stalinist. Urging Solidarity on to seize power, they reveal an appetite at bottom for an anti-socialist putsch, for a bloodbath with misguided Polish workers throwing Molotov cocktails at Soviet tanks would be far more to their liking than the “anti-Soviet” mass movement going. And from Reagan and Fraser down through the Laborite parliamentarians and trade-union bureaucrats to the self-proclaimed “socialists”, “the Polish workers” have become a holy talisman to hide the real sinister intentions of the US.

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Continued on page six
Anti-Red Front...

Continued from page five

Groupers, is sharply remembered. The older CPA cadre know, as does any class-conscious nationalist, that the main threat to this country — the program of the Catholic Church in politics is in an alliance anti-communism. In fact, the trade unions and under “working class” guise is it no less. The Anti-Red Front, dominated by the Catholic Church “Movement”, were the agencies of the Cold War witch-hunt against communists in the unions which culminated in the 1955 DLP split from the ALP. To those not in the know, the whole analogy is starkly obvious: Solidarity is the DLP/Groupers with a mass base in the Catholic workers state.

Behind the lies, demagogy and willful misinformation among the left to real forces operating in Poland lies the fear of social democrats facing anti-Red Front manipulation. The crux of these reformist leftists foster that by refusing to defend the historic gains of the working class, by helping the class enemy to destroy them in fact, the best chances for themselves from triumphant reaction. Instead they would rather buy a pardon for themselves than help in bringing the “anti-impli­

The analogy is starkly obvious: Solidarity is the DLP/Groupers with a mass base in the Catholic workers state.

Continued from...
Solidarity is Poland's DLP/Groupers

In form, Polish Solidarity appears as a democratic socialist challenge to the power of the working class, yet this move ment kneels before the Catholic priests, car rying forward the pre-war dictators' and prayer dictators' and appeals for salvation to Western imperialism. The anti-communist polemic is directed against these priests, as a matter what Solidarity thinks, says, or does, its mass proletarian base automatically makes it progressive. The Catholic Church's role as a reactionary political institution, which ought to have been settled once and for all, is in the IMF, for bloody Latin American possibility to realize his counterrevolutionary designs against the Soviet revolution. Continual from "Communist witchhunt.

The Catholic Church's role is in the IMF, for bloody Latin American possibility to realize his counterrevolutionary designs against the Soviet revolution. Continual from "Communist witchhunt."...
Hands Off the BLF!

The Fraser government is out to get the Builders Labourers Federation (BLF). Its latest instrument, the Royal Commission into alleged corruption in the BLF, is aimed at creating a suitable climate for its already-initiated de-registration proceedings against the union.

Like the continuing investigation into the Painters and Dockers union this Royal Commission is real bourgeois class "justice". As the BLF pointed out last August it lays no specific charges, has no jury, reversed the onus of proof, has no rules of evidence, no presumption of innocence and no committal proceedings. Instead, under "privilege", all sorts of allegations and inquisitions can be made, any and all muckraking dredged up and paraded through the bosses' media without the accusers having to prove a thing. From the start the BLF offered to answer any charges in a properly constituted court. BLF officials have rightly refused to cooperate with the Commission, Federal Secretary Norm Gallagher denouncing it as a "kangaroo court" which "no self-respecting worker or workers' representative would have anything to do with".

The accusations charge that Gallagher and other officials took payola from the building industry bosses, most of it pathetically copped on building materials. Gallagher allegedly received gratis for his modest beachhouse at the Victorian coastal resort of Yarram. Stern stuff. No bank robberies, not even a crooked ballot just allegations of interest-free loans and free gum trees from the City Council.

We have no love for the Maori Gallagher BLF leadership, but we know what the bosses are gunning for. The BLF has not been bashful to use its industrial muscle to squeeze higher wages and better conditions out of the land developers' bloated super-profits. Like his NSW bureaucratic foes, Mundey & Co, Gallagher won office back in the days of the old Stalinist Communist Party cleaning up the industrial jungle on the building sites, bringing real self-esteem and security to its unskilled, mainly migrant membership through hard-fought class battles to win full pay, long service leave and safety conditions in a notoriously dangerous industry. That is what the blood-sucking land developers and big-time builders hate. Hoping to use the growing pool of desperate unemployed they want the "freedom" to bring back Depression-like conditions like the already prevalent "body hire" system (where men work by the day, even the hour, at the whim of builders and contractors). Corruption? As Gallagher told Queen's Council Winnecke, "You and Mr Callaghan (counsel assisting the commission) are getting $1500 and $1200 a day to carry out the Master Builders and Government's dirty work". Whatever the truth of the bosses' allegations it is the job of the BLF ranks, not the courts, to clean up their union.

Behind Fraser and the Master Builders there is an unholy alliance wanting the BLF's head. The Australian Workers Union (AWU) and Ironworkers (FIA), involved in mutual demarcation and raiding disputes with the BLF, have the nod from the bosses to replace the BLF in new "resources boom"-linked construction projects. Then there is the contemptible group of CPA and former NSW BLF officials like Jack Mundey, bureaucratically expelled from the union and reinstated only after giving backhanded support to the Royal Commission witch-hunt (and countless court actions against the union).

For the Maori Gallagher, making common cause with Reagan and Fraser's anti-Soviet war drive has not saved the BLF from domestic anti-communism and union busting. Nor can their narrow trade-union militancy provide any real defence against a concerted capitalist offensive. The viciously bureaucratic Gallagher machine, which does not hesitate to use the bosses against its opponents in the labour movement, has plenty to account for — but before the workers. Not the discredited Mundey-Owens but the construction of a class-struggle leadership in the BLF will make a difference (see "Hands Off the BLF!")

"We Won't Strike for the Madonna of Czestochowa!"

MILANO — The preventive coup launched by the Warsaw regime to stop counterrevolutionary preparations by Polish Solidarnosc is leading the Italian Communist Party into the brink of internal rift and perhaps to an open split. PCI tops immediately issued a condemnation of the crackdown in Poland, and party chief Enrico Berlinguer declared categorically on national TV: "The forward thrust originating in the October Revolution has been spent". But at the base, in the factories, Italian workers overwhelmingly refused to heed the Eurocommunists' call for strikes and demonstrations in "solidarity with Solidarnosc". A worker in Bologna expressed the sentiment of many, replying to union organisers, "I don't strike for the madonna of Czestochowa".

For the Communist Party leadership what is posed is a final break with Moscow, crossing the Rubicon in the process of social-democratization which in varying degrees has taken its toll among the Stalinist parties of West Europe. If they become reformist, the Eurocommunists are looking to ensconce themselves in the capitalist state by swearing undivided loyalty to their "own" bourgeoisie. The PCI leader went out of his way to praise Pope Wojtyla's statements on East Europe and said that "today the question of Italy lies in the Atlantic Pact (NATO) must not be raised".

At meetings of party activists there was reported disension, but in the factories opposition to Berlinguer was solid. When the three union federations called a one-hour strike "in solidarity with Solidarnosc", the strike was a failure all over the country. In Genova, the powerful PCI-led dock workers union admitted "there was massive resistance when we distributed the leaflet with the party line on Poland" (L'Espresso, 27 December 1981). At FIAA's Mirafiori works in Turin, where the PCI and union tops sabotaged a hard-fought strike in late 1980, workers noted that it was strange that "a union that nine months ago did not agree on anything internally, all of a sudden decided to go all out for Poland". In Milan a local party leader admitted that not only hard Stalinists but also the Warsaw regime to stop counterrevolutionary preparations by Polish Solidarnosc is leading the Italian Communist Party into the brink of internal rift and perhaps to an open split. PCI tops immediately issued a condemnation of the crackdown in Poland, and party chief Enrico Berlinguer declared categorically on national TV: "The forward thrust originating in the October Revolution has been spent". But at the base, in the factories, Italian workers overwhelmingly refused to heed the Eurocommunists' call for strikes and demonstrations in "solidarity with Solidarnosc". A worker in Bologna expressed the sentiment of many, replying to union organisers, "I don't strike for the madonna of Czestochowa".

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Continued on page six

February 1982