Defend the USSR, Vietnam!

Down with the Anti-Soviet War Drive!

US imperialism's anti-Soviet war drive has brought the danger of nuclear 'Third World War' closer than it has been for decades. A global war could erupt out of any one of a dozen local and regional conflicts — stretching from Central America to the Near East to South Africa/Namibia-Angola — where the US is aggressively provoking the USSR and its allies. The hopes of Reagan/Bagd for a bloodbath in Poland between the counterrevolutionary Solidarity and the Soviets, to fuel their war drive in a white heat, were frustrated by the near-bloodless success of the Polish Army crackdown. Now Central America is once again the hottest spot in the Cold War, with yet further aid being rushed to the Salvadoran junta butchers and rising threats to invade Nicaragua and blockaded Cuba.

In this region their particular target is Vietnam where the American imperialists work hand-in-glove with the Chinese Stalinists in trying to bleed it to death. While Washington's latter-day Goebbels, Alexander Haig, peddles tall tales about chemical "yellow rain" used by the Russians to Laos the Chinese menace Vietnam's northern border and, in the south supply arms to the ASEAN-backed Khmer Rouge/Sen Saam forces operating along the Thai-Cambodian border. Reagan's/Bagd's lust for revenge in Southeast Asia, hopes dangerously shared by their Australian lackeys who also met defeat at the hands of the heroic Vietnamese. It has shown the very real option of direct military attack on Vietnam and is irresponsible from US imperialism's overall anti-Soviet strategy.

The US strategy is to achieve decisive nuclear superiority over the USSR permitting a devastating first strike to destroy Soviet missile defences following which the US could theoretically dictate terms under threat of total annihilation of Soviet cities. The US chiefs fervently dream aloud of "flexible" use of nuclear weapons in a "controlled" or "limited" exchange, preferably on European soil, which they calculate on surviving. They want to win a nuclear war, not deter it. Their insane but all-too real plans have thus far only been frustrated by the fact that the USSR has attained, and maintained, rough strategic parity with the US. Had it fallen behind in the nuclear arms race, were it not for the "workers bomb" so decried by liberal pacifists, then the mass murder of Hiroshima/Nagasaki would have been repeated a thousand times over on the deformed workers states, from Vietnam to Moscow and Eastern Europe.

Defence of the Soviet Union is the decisive question of proletarian class strategy today. The war drive dominates world politics and in this the working class has a clear side. The US ruling class hopes to halt its decline by realising its historic aim of restoring capitalism in the Soviet bloc and destroying the social conquests of the Russian revolution. This is a class conflict between a decaying and reactionary social system and the collectivised economies of the working class states which, though saddled with brutal and nationalist bureaucracies, are historic conquests of the world proletariat and part of the foundation of the socialist future. Since Afghanistan Australian capital-

ism has rapidly built up its own military forces. It is a willing partner in the US anti-Soviet war drive, participating in the Sinai venture, helping to police the region against the USSR and its Vietnamese ally, and most importantly playing host to a number of highly important US military installations. These include the NW Cape nuclear submarine communications facility, the highly sensitive CIA-run Pine Gap and Narrungar ground stations for communications/surveillance/nuclear early warning satellites, the Omega submarine navigation facility under construction in Victoria, the Smithfield

*continued on page two

US Bases Out! Smash ANZUS!
facilities controlling precision navigation satellites, the Darwin base where B-52s land and the US’ main Indian Ocean base at Diego Garcia, and a variety of other installations.

The bases integrate Australia very closely into US preparations for a first strike. In addition the US bases are a major port of call for US warships. The Australian communists criticised the Soviet Union’s stance on Vietnam, where they are involved in a war driven by the political evolution of Karl Liebknecht’s famous statement “The Main Enemy is at Home!”

"Leave us out of it!"

It was Reagan/Haig’s chilling bravado about “limited” nuclear war in Europe that triggered last year’s outpouring of protest in European capitals. As anti-Soviet they were as anti-American as their capitalist counterpart was.

Europe was nationalistic, more against a war of aggression against it than against the war drive as such. “No annihilation without representation”, said the Germans. But last year’s events showed that strongly.

The Germans, led largely by social-democrats, the protests reflected inter-imperialist conflicts between the US and European powers. Particularly West Germany, which prefers at present to pursue the aim of counterrevolution in the Eastern bloc by a broad-based anti-communist subversion rather than military means.

In the German, British, French and Italian demonstrations only the sections of the international Spartacist tendency raised the banner of defence of the USSR in opposition to anti-Sovietism and national chauvinism. From London to Paris the Spartacist parties and groups mobilised against “fascist” demonstrations in opposition to the US bases. The Trotkyste de France said, “Europe against Haig’s September visit to the Berlin wall, military means. But that is after all not planning an effective, utilitarian, or even military industry. The AWL, the party of Australian imperialists, writing against social-democratic pacifism in the 30s Trotsky pointed out, “In a period of peace it’s not stinging pacifism of the ALP parliamentarians Uren and Bruce Gordon would pull out. The 1983 elections are approaching and the Labor left has already closed ranks to support Hayden’s pledge that the ALP won’t touch the US bases. To the extent that the organisation raise the question of the bases at all, they focus not on their crucial role in facilitating a US first strike against the USSR, but the danger of Soviet retaliation in defence. Once the pressure is on, this “let’s get us out of the fighting” little-Australian nationalism will dissolve into pure and simple anti-Sovietism.

ALP = party of Australian imperialism

The rightward-moving „independent” Communist Party of Australia (CPA) is driven by the drive against war for over ten years, Comrade Toni Arguello. It was with a deep sense of loss that the Istanbul-based CPPC森林 was apprised that it had been the threat to blow the lid off the top secret US bases and its installations in Australia. Hayden has effectively promised a free hand to these sinister spys bases.

CPA = “ANZUS-Communism”

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Our comrades Toni Randell of the Spartacist Party of Australia, in February of cancer. A cadre of the SL/US for over ten years, Comrade Randell had been a member of the National Defense Committee (PDC), a member of the SL/US Central Control Commission, and a member of the SL/US Central Control Committee. Tragically, she was only 38 years old at the time of her death.

Most SL/ANZ comrades had not personally known Toni. She was the soul of her mother’s from her invaluable work on behalf of the PDC, in particular the successful campaign led by Marys’ editor Lino Mauro from the Argentine Junction. It was with a deep sense of loss that the CPPC forest was apprised that it had been the threat to blow the lid off the top secret US bases and its installations in Australia. Hayden has effectively promised a free hand to these sinister spys bases.


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- The Russian Revolution — Defend the Gains of October 1st May
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SYDNEY — Over two hundred rallied here on 23 March outside the Sydney University's Fisher Library in what was the first significantly-sized action against the PNP fascists bold on or off campus. They came in response to a call to action demanding "No Platform for Fascists! Drive the PNP Off Campus!" — to the place where a week earlier the fascist Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) had set up a book stall. The fascists had hoped to establish a front group, the "Australian Students Association" (ASA) whose five-point "program" is centred on driving "non-citizens" and overseas students out of the universities. With this militant show of force, endorsed by Asian and other immigrant students and associations, trade unions, socialists and campus left groups, these race-hate trots have announced their hope to operate semi-clandestinely with their "Socialist Students' League" and Asian-hating stickers and graffiti. However, with imperialist anti-communism finding a base in conservative values on the campuses, these scum are now crawling out of their sewers hoping to build "their new domain" in fear and terror against Asians, leftists, and anything "alien" to their "modernity" for White-Australians "New Nation".

Last year at the University of NSW the PNP were quickly sent packing when they tried to set up a table. This was the message the Spartacist Club made its central focus in its campaign to build the 23 March action — crush the fascists in the egg! The Anti-Fascist Committee which called the rally included the Spartacist Club, the International Socialists (IS), the Left Action, the campus support group for the "Nationalists" politically excluded from the SPF, and the Korean Students Union & Australasia.

March 23 Rally Endorsers
Tom Alegoneras, president, Greek Society, Sydney Uni
Australian Independence Movement, Sydney Uni and Uni of NSW
Chris Birch, Labor Club
Jack Cambourne for Federated Engine Drivers & Firemen's Association of Australia — NSW Branch
Communist Left
Ricky Divers, union organiser, acting president, Waterside Workers Federation of Australia — Sydney Branch
International Socialists
Kwan Hia Kim, president, Korean Students Society
Left Action, Sydney Uni
PNP Party (PNP)

For identification purposes only

The PNP fascists, the more nervous and capitulationist they must be driven off campus! purely paper support on the eve of the rally, with the lying claim that they hadn't known what the demands were! This left the Spartacists and the IS as the only real force building the demo. The closer the rally came and the more that the CPA/Left Action saboteurs worried about a possible "confrontation" with the fascists, the more nervous and capitulationist they must be driven off campus! The fascists, the more nervous and capitulative became the third camp! IS.

On the day of the demonstration the PNP, now claiming to "endorse" the rally, issued a leaflet condemning the demand, "No Platform For Fascists!" as merely a "got reaction" which "will not appeal to those with little idea of what fascism means". Instead they called for "demonstrations which are strictly non-violent on our part". Contrary to their earlier verbal militancy, the IS blocked with the CPA around this perspective in an "expanded" marshalled line.

Who are the dewy-eyed innocents the CPA is so fearful of alienating? Their "public meeting" at the rally spelled it out — the "conservative groups" and "many Liberal students" who "would undoubtedly be concerned. . . . If not just the ALP. . . . Even to this class collaborationist appetite, the IS chair, Steve Sherlock, went on to insist the 200-page paper and the small and insignificant number of off-campus trade unionists — who are mainly fascists with their intended victims.

The IS' contemplated turnaround was only beginning. Two days later they tried to exclude Spartacist supporters from a public talk on campus entitled, "Fascism, Nationalism . . . And How to Fight Them". When one Spartacist supporter moved to enforce workers democracy by removing IS leader John Minns from blocking the doorway, Minns baited us as just the "flip side of the coin" from the fascists. ISer Sherlock even charged, "the PNP hasn't done anything yet, you people haven't! This slander echoes the bourgeois anti-communist sock puppetry —�hand-bandy fascists and communists together as just rival factions of "violent extremism"". A week, the IS had discarded its anti-fascist verbal militancy in favour of anti-communist slanders which can only serve to set up the Spartacists.
An important victory for democratic rights was won when the witchhunt was carried out with the defeat of a vindictive McCarthy-style witchhunt against the campus Spartacist Club. Broadly, Joe Peck, who like Belbruno happens to be a fourth-year law student, Peck, supposedly “doped” into joining the club, sent a “complaint” to Dyson written by campus of the university of Solicitors Office. One of his tutors who knows him as a right-winger expressed amazement that Peck could possibly have involved himself with the Spartacist Club, whose membership list Peck had signed during Orientation Week. From day one the campaign against the Spartacist Club smacked of being a set-up, not only for administration harassment, as indicated by the repeated and never substantiated slanders of “violence” and “fraud”, or Belbruno’s thinly-veiled suggestion that the Trotskyists are really sinister Russian spies!

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**Anti-Communist Witchhunt Dealt at Melbourne U**

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**Union Leaders Condemn Witchhunt**

March 22, 1982

Activities Committee, 
U/M University, Parkville, Vic. 3052

Dear Comrades,

I write in support of the attempts by a group of Melbourne University students to set up a Spartacist Club at Melbourne University.

One does not have to support the political views of these students to appreciate that the denial of the right to form such a club is a denial of the fundamental democratic right which in my opinion should be defended by the Activities Committee. More than that, the witchhunt is undermined.

As a trade union official who never enjoyed a University education or had the opportunity to engage in the broad and genuinely democratic approach and exchange of ideas experienced on a University campus it comes as something of a shock to learn of the narrow big-otries and unenlightened views held sway in this day and age. I therefore add my protest and ask that the affiliation rights be granted to these students forthwith.

Fraternally,

A. Williams

Vice President

Trade Union Secretaries

March 16, 1982

Chairman,

Activities Committee,

University of Melbourne, 

Parkville, Vic. 3052

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to our notice that the Spartacist Club is being excluded from your University.

Whilst not necessarily agreeing with the policy of this club, we are of the opinion that the democratic rights of this club are being denied and we as a union are unable to disapprove of your undemocratic action.

Yours sincerely,

Stan Williams

Secretary

Victorian Secretaries

Federated Engineer Drivers and Fireman’s Association

SRC President Bill Watson and Union Board careerist Robert Chappell throwing out accusations of “fraud”, “stand-over tactics” and “actionable” statements in Campus Spartacist as if they’d already made the big league in a fully fledged HUAC chant.

“Standover tactics”, intimidation and slander were exclusively the methods of the witchhunters, however. What about Belbruno’s harassing phone calls to Spartacist Club members, not to mention Dyson’s letters? “What about the case of Ms Peck, a fourth-year University Club member at the meeting. Or the case of J O Peck, who like Belbruno happens to be a fourth-year law student, Peck, supposedly “doped” into joining the club, sent a “complaint” to Dyson written by campus of the university of Solicitors Office. One of his tutors who knows him as a right-winger expressed amazement that Peck could possibly have involved himself with the Spartacist Club, whose membership list Peck had signed during Orientation Week. From day one the campaign against the Spartacist Club smacked of being a set-up, not only for administration harassment, as indicated by the repeated and never substantiated slanders of “violence” and “fraud”, or Belbruno’s thinly-veiled suggestion that the Trotskyists are really sinister Russian spies!

Spartacist Club spokesman Christine Stephens cut through the lies and innuendo to lay bare the basis for the witchhunt: “I would like to point out that the Spartacist Club suspension is unjust, discriminatory and based in political considerations only. I would assert that the rules have never been in question here. In my opinion, at this point, ALP Per Watson bluntly out that the Spartacist Club “do not have a right to interfere and to disrupt the internal political comment (1) on this campus, and I think that some of the charges many members of this committee and other people have...” Perhaps the “other” Watson was the one who sent the capitalists who sit on Melbourne University’s Council, the Regiment which represents the University, the army, or the cops who broke the cafeteria workers strike last year the “outsiders”, as Comrade Christine pointed out, “who don’t belong on this campus”.

Ironically for the witchhunters, the Spartacist Club emerged through its defence campaign as an organically strong and broadly-known campus club, with many new supporters and friends impressed by our frank and aggressive approach, a stark contrast to the snotty “house socialists” of the Socialist Club who throughout the campaign maintained a cloak silence on the dirty work of their colleague Belbruno. The Spartacist Club looks forward to continuing the campaign. Our pending trial has already won us a fair degree of publicity, winning fresh forces to the struggle for workers revolution. For as Leon Trotsky by the Stalinists, "...to participate in this movement with open eyes and with an intense will — only this can give the highest moral satisfaction to a thinking being!"
On 25 March the International Socialistists (IS) excluded Spartanist supporters from a "public" Melbourne University IS forum on Poland, and tried to do likewise the same day at a publicly advertised IS forum at Sydney University. Sound round? Certainly this is hardly afirst for IS. Along with the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) they have for years carried out a systematic policy of political exclusion directed against the SL aimed at sealing off their respective memberships and peripheries from the SL, a policy which neither tendency, nor any other, has previously succeeded in enforcing.

What made the 25 March incidents so gross were two events that immediately preceded them. The Sydney University IS forum, entitled "Fascism, Nationalism... And How to Fight Them" was held only two days after a 200-strong anti-fascist demonstration on the campus, initiated and built centrally by the SL. The Spartanist Club and Spartanist League (see article page 3). The forum at Melbourne University took place one day after the Spartanist Club on that campus threatened to shut down the McCarthy-style administration-backed witchhunt (see article facing page). The timing here is anything but coincidental.

The Melbourne University witchhunters were defeated thanks largely to suppress political dissent marked the peak of the late 60s, early 70s student movement on this campus. When the Nationalist catering company took over Melbourne University's cafeterias in early 1981, the administration called the cops to break up an on-campus demonstration in support of Caterete workers striking for job permanency and decent conditions at the strike, was threatened with disaffiliation, its members "investigated" and the 750-plus students, campus workers, academics and prominent ALPers who without hesitation signed a petition demanding the club's immediate reaffiliation.

But when IS, as was asked to sign, IS leader Dr David Lockwood flatly stated: "I don't defend your democratic rights... you people are Soviet imperialists. Take your demand to the tiny Socialist Left group, charge them with 'violence' and 'disruption', slander them, that the SWP has been busily circulating at least since their thug attack against the SL during their Anti-Imperialist Meeting in the last June (see AJP no 86, July 1981).

Political exclusion (and the accompanying slander of "disruption" and "violence") is itself soft-core violence, an attempt to create a climate of opinion of communists as non-people, undeserving of workers democracy. Should anyone believe the sinister import of Lockwood's ludicrous suggestion that we Trotskyists are some kind of Russian agents. Accusations of "disruption" and "violence", entirely unproven, alone have earned the club a Spartacist League anti-Soviet, anti-socialist-controlled group of "infiltrators" (which reads like a tract by John Edgar Hoover) formed the core of Melbourne University IS plan.

Carlton last October the Doctor dran... the Spartacist Club had not previously seen Peck's statement. We had, however, spoken to Peck on the current situation and had called him to inform him of a Spartacist Club forum on Poland. Peck, who happens to be a frequent contributor to our magazine, explained that he was mistaken in joining the club a "disruptive" one. He did not want to maintain his membership, which was fine by us as we told him. At no point in the conversation did we mention his 5 March written complaint.

Dyson sent out a letter of her own to members of the Spartanist Club, asking that they confirm their membership in writing to her. On 12 March Dyson told one Spartanist supporter that a failure to sign and, like Paul White of the ALP Socialist Left, the Spartacist tendency. In this there is no new. In 1971 Maoist student leaders had fled the country and later, three of his cohorts were refused admission to Melbourne University, despite the fact that the requirements for admission had been "impeccably fulfilled". The protests in response to this blatant attempt to Old Hands at Repression

Of course, repression of left-wing and left-wing activity is nothing new. In 1971 Maoist student leaders fled the country and later, three of his cohorts were refused admission to Melbourne University, despite the fact that the requirements for admission had been "impeccably fulfilled". The protests in response to this blatant attempt to...
No Platform... Continued from page three

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The FDA/SWP didn't show their faces on 23 March, instead scat-
ttering leaflets around the campus headed "DEFEND FREE SPEECH" which denounce "Left/Spartacist lies" and threaten that "our right to freedom of expression will be enforced — by us if necessary". Under cover of "free ex-
pression" the fascists hope to legitimate race-hated and gather the forces to launch racist terror. Those who defend the fascists' "democratic rights" or argue that action should be postponed "until they strike first" are rendering the PNP/SWP's brave workers a death sentence.

The PNP are now relatively small and weak but their White-Australia program of formulating anti-Afrikan racism has the potential to tap deep-seated xenophobic fears in a climate of domestic austerity and anti-Soviet militarism. Above all it is a program for crushing the incipient fascist threat. It must use the independent mobilisation of organised labour to crush these creeps whenever they try to enter their heads. No platform for fascists!

Melbourne Uni... Continued from page five

"picket lines mean don't cross". Socialist Club members crossed them. In Poland, the Nazis are forging a close alliance with the Soviet totalitarian vanguard in the traditions of Lenin and Luxemburg, we said that Sovietism's clerical-nationalist counterrevolution must be stopped, and the gains of the Bolshevik Revolution, bureaucratically extended to Poland when the Soviet Red Army liberated the country from Nazi occupation, must be defended. The Socialist Club was and is wildly pro-SolidarnoSc, as is Reagan, Ford, Carter, and Pope (not least, Knofelmacher and Sçrednicki). In face of the imperialist drive to anti-Soviet manoeuvres, we say: Defend the Soviet Union! Defend Vietnam! The main enemy is at home!

The Cold War anti-Sovietism of Melbourne University's Socialist Club is consistent with Cold War witchhunts which are whitewashing on campus. Still, we suggest to members of the Socialist Club that they take a good hard look at Belbruno and what he is doing; even the most "democratic" of "socialists" will lose their nerve and his more influential backers are able to suppress democratic right of campus.

Aside from the highly dubious aspects of this case, the attempt to keep the "steel" "safe" for its masters is down the line counterposed to everything that we stand for. We seek to bring closer the day when administration is open to all and the administration abolished, when Melbourne's oldest and most prestigious campus is made available to the masses of "outsiders" who are today denied access to higher education because they are working class, poor or minorities. 

We appeal to all those who have a stake in defending democratic rights to join us in defending this anti-communist witchhunt. If successful, this action will not stop with the Socialist Club. An injury to one is an injury to all!

No Platform... Continued from page three

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We appeal to all those who have a stake in defending democratic rights to join us in defending this anti-communist witchhunt. If successful, this action will not stop with the Socialist Club. An injury to one is an injury to all!
At a meeting of the Anti-Fascist Committee on 19 March supporters of the International Socialists (IS), the CPA, the Young Socialist League (YSL) and the AIM argued for calling on the Administration to ban fascist literature from the campus. These people never learn. This is the Administration that suspended IS supporters Martin Hirst for two years and fined several other leftists for taking part in a 1978 protest against racist apostle Hans Eysenck, the administration which last year sent its "grey men" (i.e. cops) to harass leftists selling socialist literature on campus. It doesn't take much to figure out that an Administration "battling" on fascist literature, like state bans against the fascist right, will always be applied "easily" (read: most stringently) against the left. The reformists can only conceive of "militant" action as a mechanism to pressure the established authorities, be it the capitalist state or its representatives on campus. Our is a perspective of mass labour/student action to stop the fascists. The fascists understand only one thing and that's the same treatment meted out to scales! Anti-Soviet war drive spawns fascist fifth - Defend the Soviet Union

The YSL's touching faith in the University Administration is entirely consistent with its search for a "peace bloc" with bourgeois "progressives" against the threat of anti-Soviet nuclear holocaust. The YSL March meeting went out of his way to stress that no "confrontation" with the fascists take place. It's like nuclear disarmament, he said. Quite right — we Trotskyists are for Soviet missiles which stand guard against imperialist war! In contrast the reformist anti-Soviet left controls the local "left" and the capitalist press, the newsreels, the TV, the radio and the system that feeds the fascists' growth. Last December the SWP, IS and CPA members actually joined hands with the fascist "Captive Nations" outside the Polish consulate in defence of the counterrevolutionary Solidarnosc! The Stalinist YSL aren't the only ones to oppose militant action to stop the fascists. In quick succession the Communist Party and, on the eve of the demonstration, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) withdrew their endorse- ments, a despicable stab in the back after the public decision to launch this united front demonstration. However at the same time leading trade union bodies such as the Mine, Foundry, the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association, the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers, South Coast Trades and Labour Council, several officials of the Waterside Workers Federation, the Communist Party of New Zealand, and various Asian student groups such as the Malaysian Students Association, have endorsed.

The SWP, which initially endorsed only a march with the anti-Stalinist meeting, suddenly "discovered" 4 days later that, like the CPA, it disagreed with denying the fascists a platform to spread their racist filth. Such "turn-the-cheek" pacifism can only embolden the fascists. The PNP is on this campus to recruit the cadre-cult of fascist dominated right-wing groups, like the fascist "Students for a New Social Order" (who failed Big Liars, who make IDI Amin and Dr Goebbels look rational in comparison), determined to create a truth behind the lies.

El Salvador...

Continued from page eight revolutionary necessaries to overthrow the Sandinistas. Reagan seems deter- mined to force Nicaragua onto the "Cuban road," desperately to forcibly create the evidence of their "communism". But for their domestic enemies - bourgeois nationalists, not communist internationalists. Immediately after taking power in 1979 they tried extreme measures to create a demonstration of Sandinista political bankruptcy. The Sandinistas have periodically acted on their words, never breaking a single one of the promises they have made. However with bourgeoisAtomism in defence of the "electoral" road to an end run around the new Sandinista government was absolutely the political 'rulers of American capitalism. Thus while Democratic liberals differ with Reagan on the "cold war" question, these people are basically the same, and after all join hands over Central America, they all join hands over Poland (along with most of the reformist left). This and most of Reagan's programs with selective, substantively trivial, anti-Soviet war drive, are a way to satisfy the needs of American working class and middle-class minorities and poor. With the economy col- lapsed government giveaways, they try to prop up budgets, cut demands as "necessary sacrifices" for the "national defence". The imperialistic program of the pro-imperialist "doves" who call for a "poli- tical solution" in El Salvador is for higher taxes to finance the war budget, i.e. the sanity of Adolf Hitler in 1938 as opposed to Reagan's 1945's. Yet important sections of the US ruling class sense and feel that the anti-Communist economic desperation of the working people and their deepening hatred for the political rulers of American capitalism. Liberal and not-liberal bourgeois forces would like to offer some social amelioration, not just naked reaction on all fronts. The hauty New York Times, which has shed a tear for the masses in 100 years, now runs interviews in practicaly every issue exposing the growing of truly desperate poverty among large sections of the population. But the liberals have no policy except being against Reagan. They can't admit, even to themselves, that the arms budget is ready. The budget budget because the basic aim of that war — the destruc- tion of the Soviet Union.

At the same time the Reaganite far right is openly brailing at the restrictions of bourgeois democracy, from sniping at the liberal media to the object of the Congressional budget committees. A few months ago the California state of El Salvador, recently expelled from the John Birch Society for openly advocating a coup d'etat to do away with the parliamentary process and Jewish lesbians. And further to the right of the Birch Society the Klan and Nazis are growing in numbers and more active as the fascist fringe of Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive. This gives increasing urgency to efforts by the Spartacist League and class-struggle union militants to stop the race terrorists in their tracks through labor/black mobilisation.

The Reagan policy aims at destroying Russia in a war that the US cannot win painlessly for middle-class Americans. There is to be no drafting of white college boys or conscription of the youth of the American population. Instead there are the options of the US to become big imperialist nation, to take up the struggle beyond piecemeal reforms (today) and take up the question of power. To stop the anti-Soviet war drive down the road to US aggression in Central America and elsewhere, it is necessary to bring Reagan down the road to political action to the way to a workers state!

Sub Drive Success

Our 1982 Subscription Drive, with less than one week to go, has been a success, the national quota being reached midway through the drive. The drive was launched in support of the Polish Solidarnosc workers' movement. Our revolutionary Polish Solidarnosc, our Trotskyist opposition to Solidarnosc in particular has attracted considerable interest, in both new and existing Sub Drive subscribers. This was particularly true of those who were highly successful, especially Canberra which netted 73 subscriptions and $237.20 and regional number of sub to our International Newsletter, notably Women and Revolution.

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Necessary Quotas (read: most stringently) against the Vietnamese, which sows further seeds of war. Deeply compliet in imperialism's war drive, since the 1970s through to 1990s, the Vietnamese years right up to the present, the Cold War labor offtopic cannot credibly present itself as an opponent of the domestic consequences: economic crisis, "givebacks" and cutbacks.

It is Desperately Necessary to Fight

El Salvador, Klaan/Nazi attacks, layoffs in the auto industry are all linked, not by some kind of imposed schema, but by the same economic crisis, in deep crisis. It is desperately necessary to fight, and the only successful struggles will be those on a class basis, with a revolutionary leadership fighting to overthrow the entire destructive boom- bust system of production for profit, not social need. Already most of the fake solutions have been abandoned by the capitalists. Indeed in that case there are excluded, openly and in the minds of labor militants. The bankruptcy of the trade-union movement is not that "more" and "newer and "better", but that it's becoming logically impossible to be a real movement for the oppressed through the proletariat and direct its struggle beyond piecemeal reforms (today) and take up the question of power. To stop the anti-Soviet war drive down the road to US aggression in Central America and elsewhere, it is necessary to bring Reagan down the road to political action to the way to a workers state! —from Struggle for Workers Vanguard 211, 11, 1982

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April 1982
As the murderous Salvadoran junta totters and left-wing rebels advance, this is sending shock waves through the United States. Reagan and Haig dig in their heels, still trying to convince themselves that they can get a victory on the cheap in their global war on Communism. The reformists respond with empty talk of a "compromise" political solution". In El Salvador and "butcher plus guns" economic programs at home. The reformists merely tail after the Democrats, but the revolutionaries of the Spartacist League have a fundamentally different aim: we fight for military victory to the Salvadoran leftist insurgents, for defense of Cuba and the US labor to take the offensive against Reagan reaction's assault on workers and blacks. We want to sweep away the bankrupt capitalist system that spells poverty and oppression forever. We want to do this with the planet into a nuclear third world war.

Reagan/Haig's "BigLie" campaign of recent weeks has been plain to all that the US government seeks nothing but a savage military solution in Central America, if necessary creating opponents out of those who had wanted only to conciliate them. When the Nicaraguan Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) toppled the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, it was possible to envision a military victory is urgently posed. And the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) toppled the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, it was possible to envision a utopian middle way. But in El Salvador today there is no middle ground. The New York Times reports that the leading candidate in the March "elections", Roberto D'Aubuisson, is a psychotic mass murderer, who among other things he is archbishop primate, attempted to kill the US ambassador and calls for indiscriminate napalming of the peasantry.

Today the call for the rebels to take the capital city, San Salvador, is on the agenda. Yet the disingenuous bourgeois politicians of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) are necessarily opposed to a working-class uprising sweeping away the bloodthirsty junta. This would destroy their dreams of a reformed capitalist government by posting a new US-backed junta. The Salvadoran guerrilla leaders also join the FDR in calling for a "political solution" which would leave the junta army and the social reality of populist guerrilla war. Nevertheless, the overthrow of capitalism in Nicaragua or El Salvador would set Central America afame, above all threatening to ignite Mexico with its sizeable industrial base and proletariat.

As the murderous Salvadoran junta totters and left-wing rebels advance, this is sending shock waves through the United States. Reagan and Haig dig in their heels, still trying to convince themselves that they can get a victory on the cheap in their global war on Communism. The reformists respond with empty talk of a compromise political solution leaving the landlord-puppet army and oligarchic rule intact means the greatest bloodbath in the bloody history of their oppression.

So what's in it for the French and Mexicans? What are we witnessing here is some big-power and middle-power rivalries within the framework of imperialism. Mitterrand, the French Socialist president, is manifestly as violently anti-Soviet as the Cold Warriors in Washington, and pro-Israeli besides. But the French have their own visions of national glory going back to the Emperor Maximilian, and consequently a semi-adversary relationship with the Americans. Thus Paris has decided to cultivate some friends in Central America, delivering a few million dollars of ineffective trucks and band-aid's to the Nicaraguans. (Last anyone think they're gone pinko, however, the French are supplying the military strengthen in neighboring Honduras with advanced Mirage jets.)

Mexico, meanwhile, is the most populous Latin American country next to Brazil, and for 150 years it has seen Central America as part of its natural sphere of influence (annexation currently being out of fashion). Despite occasional rhetorical flourishes and bear hugs for Fidel Castro, Mexico is a capitalist country with a large, wealthy and very conscious bourgeoisie. And lately it has discovered vast new oil reserves which greatly improve its bargaining power with the yanqui colossus to the north. Far from being even slightly favorable to revolution, Mexican president Lopez Portillo has just created an elite army unit to keep the Central American insurgents from spilling across the border. And in proposing a political solution in El Salvador, the Mexicans explicitly offered guarantees against a Marxist government. Whether they can deliver will be another matter.

Sandinitas Nicaragua with its Back to the Wall

Ever since he got into office Ronald Reagan has been going after the Sandinistas with a vengeance. (The Republican platform declared Nicaragua already lost to Communism, and the UN ambassador Jean Kirpatrick labelled former dictator Somoza, the jackal of Managua, a bellicose authoritar.) Starting with cancellation of US aid agreements, Washington has now escalated to more military forms of destabilizing the radical nationalist FSLN regime. There have been mounting border raids by ex-Somoa National Guardsmen operating out of Honduras with evident CIA support. Then came the threats of a Caribbean blockade directed against Nicaragua. And now it has been confirmed that the US is spending $19 million to train a force of counter-