

Australasian

SPARTACIST



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Down With Cold War Laborite Racism and Union Busting!

Workers Need a Revolutionary Party!

No Vote to Labor!

The looming international recession and the crisis of Reagan's imperial presidency has sent two of the US' most vociferous allies, Hawke and Thatcher, to the polls early. Australian capitalism itself is a basket case with a spiralling foreign debt to rival Brazil's. Moreover it is caught in the cross-fire of growing inter-imperialist rivalry between Japan and the US. For the bourgeoisie, the only way out is a concerted program for driving up the rate of exploitation, and ultimately, imperialist war. Both Hawke's ALP and the fragmented bourgeois opposition promise three more years of escalating anti-Soviet war build-up, union busting and vicious attacks on minorities. The July federal elections offer workers and the oppressed a choice akin to deciding between execution by firing squad or by hanging.

As in the last two elections, Trotskyists say a vote to Labor now is outright class treachery. These elections demonstrate



The Age

BLF workers confronting cops (1985). Revolutionary party needed to smash Cold War union-busting.

sharply that reformist solutions are wholly impossible. The way forward for the working class lies in hard class struggle. From the Wollongong steelworkers to the Victorian nurses there is a demonstrated will to struggle. But to turn the tide against the bosses' one-sided class war requires a fight to oust the Labor misleaders and their ACTU hatchmen. It is necessary to split the ALP, to win

its working class ranks to the banner of a revolutionary Trotskyist party, and consign its corrupt, CIA-infested tops to the rubbish dump of history.

HAWKE IS REAGAN'S MAN

Washington despatched Secretaries of War and State, Weinberger and Shultz, to Australia following the ASEAN meeting in Singapore which pledged to main-

tain the US-orchestrated economic and military blockade of heroic Vietnam: the key target of the anti-Soviet war drive in the region. This mid-election tour was to laud their junior partner Hawke for his support of US bases (which he emphasises are joint facilities), his "strong stand" against Libya and the Soviets in the South Pacific and his unprecedented post-war military build-up. Hawke's praises are being sung from Wall Street financiers to the local capitalist media moguls, Bond, Packer and Murdoch. Even the notorious anti-communist vermin John Singleton is running the ALP's advertising. Hawke is flaunting in the face of Labor's working class base that he is Reagan and the bosses' man. Drive out the US bases! Defend Vietnam and the Soviet Union!

Hawke, and Grim Reaper Keating, have rammed through a truly Thatcherite program, with the aid of their ACTU policemen, but without the fuss Thatcher had to undergo. The Queensland SEQEB workers were shafted by Hawke and the ACTU on behalf of the reactionary Petersen government,

Continued on page ten

Mass Protests Rock South Korea



LA Times

Cops driven back by militant student protesters in Seoul, June 10.

JUNE 22 — Mass demonstrations in South Korea over the past two weeks have tapped decades of pent-up popular hatred of one of the more viciously repressive regimes in the so-called "Free World." From the capital Seoul to the industrial city of Pusan in the South, hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets since June 10. Despite the usually efficient brutality of the riot police, protesters have been able to regroup following pointblank barrages of pepper gas. And the demonstrations continue to escalate. On June 18, the center of Seoul became a battle zone as tens of thousands of students seized control of the streets from the police. The next night, demonstrators in Taejon rammed a commandeered bus into police

lines; one cop was killed.

There is something of a tradition in South Korea of youth throwing themselves on well-armed police shock troops. However, as the New York Times (17 June) observed, "The political crisis here has been built instead on the sustained outbreak of disturbances in central Seoul and the growing participation of thousands of nonstudents of all ages and backgrounds." While students have elicited mass support from white-collar workers, so far there has been no mention of any participation by the South Korean industrial proletariat, the motor force of South Korea's "economic miracle" and the only power which can carry out a revolutionary

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Free Mordechai Vanunu!

Mordechai Vanunu is the 32-year-old Israeli nuclear technician whose spectacular revelations exposing the Zionist state's nuclear force of 100-200 bombs were published in the London Sunday Times last October. For his courageous act, the working people, indeed all of humanity, owe Vanunu a tremendous debt of gratitude. Instead this heroic man now languishes in solitary confinement in an Israeli prison, heavily guarded by the Shin Beth, the sinister Zionist secret police which are a cross between the FBI and the Gestapo. In the Zionist fortress, "security" and the brutal secret police enforcers are treated as sacrosanct. This underscores the unprecedented ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court on May 24 that Shin Beth had tortured and framed up a Circassian Muslim army officer on charges of espionage and treason, and that he must be immediately released. Vanunu is charged with disclosing state secrets, "aggravated espionage" and aiding the enemy in wartime, charges which carry the death sentence.

Kidnapped from Rome last September by the Mossad (the Israeli CIA) Vanunu was spirited to Israel where he was held incommunicado. Only a protest by his family and friends saved him from possibly being "disappeared" in the Shin Beth dungeons. Even after a 33-day hunger strike Vanunu is still deprived of even the modicum of rights ordinarily granted prisoners. The legal proceedings against him are conducted behind closed doors under Israel's draconian security regulations.

In the intensely chauvinist

Notice to Readers

The change in the appearance of this issue of Australasian Spartacist is due to the breakdown of our antiquated typesetter, which after many years of service appears to have given up the ghost. Financial constraints have compelled us to revert to a cheaper production method. However, we will continue to strive for improvement in producing a better-looking, high-quality Marxist press.

Australasian SPARTACIST

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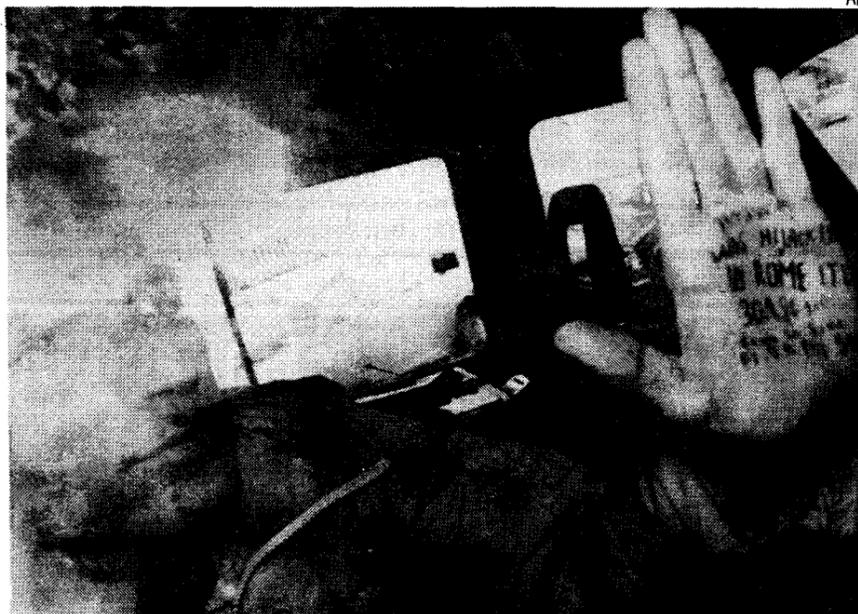
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Jerusalem, December 1986: Mordechai Vanunu's message to reporters from police van, saying he was hijacked in Rome by Israeli agents.

Zionist fortress, governed by the "Labor"-Likud alliance which includes the entire Zionist spectrum and is presently headed by notorious terrorist and murderer Yitzhak Shamir, the government has orchestrated a campaign to vilify Vanunu. But Israeli society is deeply polarized. The brutally oppressed Palestinian Arabs make up 20 percent of the population inside Israel and another 1.2 million live under the Zionist jackboot in the Occupied Territories. And even within the Hebrew-speaking majority there are deep divisions between the relatively privileged Ashkenazi (European) Jews and the Sephardic or "Oriental" Jews who, like the Moroccan-born Vanunu, come from North Africa and the Near East. While Sephardic Jews make up the mass base of the right-wing Zionist and religious parties, the discrimination they suffer can also produce a Vanunu. The polar-

ization of Israeli society profoundly deepened after the Zionist blitzkrieg in Lebanon and hideous massacre of thousands of defenseless Palestinians at Shatila and Sabra, which engendered maniacal enthusiasm from some and deep revulsion from others.

In a foreword to a recent collection of materials translated from the Israeli press on Vanunu, the distinguished Israeli civil libertarian Israel Shahak notes that Vanunu not only revealed the extent of the Zionist nuclear arsenal but "the changed mentality among an important part of the younger Jewish generation.... Not only in the better part of the press, but also among the wider public, including the Oriental Jews, one can hear a lot of sympathy and understanding to Vanunu, his motives, his courage and even his act" (emphasis in original).

Another example of this changing attitude was demon-

strated in response to the Shamir government's announcement of a 50 percent tuition hike for Arab students to subsidize a cut for Jews. This attempt to extend the Zionists' vicious anti-Arab discrimination to the universities was met with the largest bi-national protests in Israel's history. In May, thousands of Arab and Hebrew-speaking students marched together demanding "Down with a racist society!" and "Stop the apartheid policies!" Vanunu's courageous stand has no doubt inspired this small but nevertheless significant Hebrew-speaking minority to question the growing militarism and racism of the Zionist state.

The extent of the Israeli nuclear strike force means the Zionist madmen have more than Arab capitals in their sights. They have a much bigger target in mind: the Soviet Union. As Dr Ernesto Kahan, chairman of the Israeli Committee for the Prevention of Nuclear War, told the Boston Globe (4 February): "Nuclearization of the Middle East is of concern to the whole world because if nuclear war starts here, we will all blow up."

Vanunu acted in the cause of humanity. Now the international working class must champion his cause. Support for Vanunu has come from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Britain. In the US the quartermaster for Israel's nuclear death machine, the only organized effort for Vanunu has been the steadfast fight of his close American friend Judy Zimmert. We call on our readership to raise this issue in their unions, civil rights and civil liberties organizations. Hail Mordechai Vanunu — Make his freedom your fight! **Donations can be sent to: Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund, PO Box 45005, Somerville, MA 02145, USA.**

— Reprinted from Workers Vanguard, no 429, 29 May 1987

Sub Drive Success

Totals

Sydney: 658 (Quota 400)
Melbourne: 540 (Quota 400)
At large: 51

This year's Australasian Spartacist subscription drive was a great success, reaching a national total of 1249 points in four weeks — 156 percent of our quota of 800 points. This includes 93 points for Workers Vanguard, the biweekly paper of the Spartacist League of the US, and 142 points for Women and Revolution, its popularity reflecting the special importance of fighting against women's oppression in this brutally male chauvinist country.

As a small Trotskyist propaganda group, we find these results very satisfying. Our subscription base has more than doubled since 1985, showing an openness towards our Soviet-defencist program for hard class struggle against Hawke's Cold War capitalist austerity measures and our championing of the rights of the oppressed. Our internationalism stands in sharp contrast to the fake-left's reformist Laborism. In Canberra, in the immediate aftermath of the Fiji coup, our

timely front page article "Hawke: Reagan's Deputy Sheriff in the South Pacific!" sparked a lot of interest amongst students. Both the Canberra and Adelaide teams did exceptionally well. A 36-point increase in subscriptions from Tamil immigrants reflected our international tendency's reputation for defence of Tamils' rights in Sri Lanka.

A highlight of the subscription drive was the 42 points sold to Aboriginals. Our forthright class-struggle defence of the Toomelah 21, framed for exercising their basic right of self-defence against

racist terror, was well-received by blacks who confront Australian apartheid. Particularly in Brisbane, where, for example, one black militant at the Aboriginal Legal Service encouraged others to buy our paper as it "tells the truth" and "can't be silenced."

Special congratulations go to our subdrive winner Andrew S from Melbourne with a spectacular 156.5 points. Runners up were Andrew G from Sydney and Toni S from Melbourne with 105.5 and 103.5 points respectively.

We welcome our new readers and resubscribers!

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AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Sri Lanka Bloody Offensive Against Tamil North

Indian Jets Over Jaffna

Economist

Sirohi/AP

On Thursday June 4, five Indian Air Force Antonov 32 cargo planes escorted by Mirage fighters flew over northern Sri Lanka in a demonstrative drop of desperately needed relief supplies to the Jaffna Peninsula, the besieged Tamil area of the island. The Sri Lankan armed forces, which have been indiscriminately bombing and shelling the Tamil populace in the north for weeks, offered no resistance. With its act, the Indian government asserted suzerainty, posing possible annexation of northern Sri Lanka. New Delhi is determined that henceforth the bloody Sinhala-chauvinist regime of president J R Jayewardene will heed India's dictates regarding the Tamil areas or face more decisive military measures.

On June 6, in the largest Tamil demonstration in London since the 1983 pogroms in Lanka, many were chanting "Well done India" and "Carry on Rajiv." While in the short run an Indian invasion could provide relief from the murderous onslaught of the Sri Lankan army, illusions in the Indian ruling class are deadly dangerous. Notably, Gandhi's gesture was made only after the Lankan army had scored its successes against Tamil-held areas, killing hundreds of civilians. And the record of Gandhi and the capitalist class he represents speaks volumes about what sort of "liberation" the Indian army would bring to the Tamils in the long run. In the face of an invasion, communists must stand for revolutionary defeatism toward both the blood-drenched Indian and Lankan regimes.

An Indian intervention which confined itself to the north of the island could well have horrendous repercussions for the Tamils who remain in the rest of the island. Today the Sinhala communalists, impotent in the face of Indian power and terrified of the consequences for them if the terms of national oppression were reversed, may well again turn their chauvinist frenzy on Tamils in the south. The plight of the economically key plantation workers of the highland tea country, the so-called Indian Tamils, is doubly tragic. They have been ignored by most of the Sri Lankan left with its class-collaborationist, Sinhala-chauvinist politics, as well as by



Lanka army rounds up Tamil youth in Jaffna Peninsula (left). Indian air force drops supplies for besieged Tamil areas (right).



the dominant Tamil organizations, be they bourgeois parliamentarians or petty bourgeois guerrillists. In 1985 Jayewardene warned that if the Indian army invaded the Tamils would be finished in the south.

LANKAN ARMY DRIVE TO RETAKE THE NORTH

Ever since 1983, when anti-Tamil pogroms instigated by elements within Jayewardene's United National Party killed several thousand and forced hundreds of thousands of Tamils to flee to the Northern and Eastern Provinces and to India, there has been a de facto partition of the island. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest Tamil nationalist group, has held the Jaffna Peninsula and sections of the north while the Eastern Province, where Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims live, with the strategic Trincomalee harbor, has remained disputed territory. Endless rounds of peace negotiations brokered by India have broken down over the critical question of control of Trincomalee. Meanwhile, the civil war has resulted in thousands dead.

The wave of indiscriminate terrorist attacks this April, attributed by the government to Tamil nationalist groups, left hundreds of mainly Sinhalese civilians dead. The Sri Lankan regime faced mounting pressure within and without the government from Sinhala communalist hardliners to take military action to retake the north, where the army has been confined to its bases in the Jaffna Peninsula. On May 26, following the air-sea offensive that had left hundreds dead, the army moved to consolidate its hold on key territory. Leaflets dropped from the air ordered civilians to assemble within two hours at designated temples, schools and churches, but this did not restrain the Sri Lankan forces from bombing such centres, including with primitive "napalm" mixtures.

In the fighting that followed, the government forces claimed to have regained control of about one-fifth of the Jaffna Peninsula, including the ports of Point Pedro and Valvedditarai, cutting the

guerrillas off from their supply and escape routes to south India. Western reporters allowed into Valvedditarai in the last few days report widespread devastation. The army's first act of occupation was to round up the entire young male population of the district. Four thousand were shipped south to the notorious Boosa concentration camp. "National Security" minister Lalith Athulathmudali blandly told despairing relatives in Valvedditarai that 1,500 were likely to be held indefinitely. On Friday night seven Tamils were reported killed attempting to escape from Boosa.

The second stage of the army's offensive, an assault on Jaffna town, has been called off. Right now the army probably has neither the military strength nor the will to take the casualties required, but more importantly India has delivered a message that all but the most rabid communalist must understand. Elements in the Sri Lankan government appeared to have gambled that India would not intervene, even implying that the Indian government had given its tacit approval to the offensive in the north. But the offensive did not achieve the quick results they had hoped for, and soon after it began Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi spoke of "calculated and cold-blooded slaughter of thousands," warning the Sri Lankans to stop before it was too late.

Indian national newspapers like the Times of India, usually close to the government, began urging military intervention. An increased Indian naval and coast guard presence was noted in the waters around Sri Lanka, while reports circulated that 800 paratroopers had been flown south to Madras. Facing mounting pressure to act and fed up with the Sri Lankan prevarications which it sees as having thwarted its attempt to negotiate a settlement, India announced that it was sending aid to Jaffna whether Sri Lanka liked it or not. But the first attempt to do so with a motley fleet of 20 fishing boats (with 100 journalists) was not backed up by the Indian navy, and Sri Lanka's minuscule navy was allowed to turn the relief convoy back. The day follow-

ing this humiliating fiasco, India's Antonovs and Mirages went in.

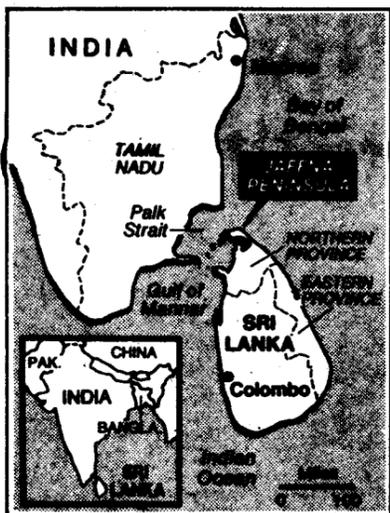
SOUTH ASIA AND THE ANTI-SOVIET WAR DRIVE

An Indian diplomat is reported to have said: "The unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is very important to us. But it's not nearly so important as the unity and integrity of India" (Guardian London, 2 June). Gandhi is under increasing domestic pressure, including the continuing agitation among 50 million Tamils in south India. In the last six months, Rajiv's image as "Mr Clean" has taken a battering: sordid wranglings over constitutional issues were followed by defense contract scandals in which he protected Congress Party cronies accused of corruption. Unrest among the Sikhs in the Punjab has led to the replacement of the state government by central rule.

In Meerut near Delhi, a center of joint Hindu-Muslim struggle in the anti-British uprising of 1857, hundreds have been killed in communal fighting over possession of a mosque/temple. Gandhi's Congress Party has also suffered major electoral defeats by "left" Communist Party-dominated coalitions in recent state elections in Bengal and Kerala and faces an important election in the Hindi-belt state of Haryana in two weeks. All this is symptomatic of the corruption, exploitation and brutality that is capitalist India, and of its character as a virtual prison house of peoples. As with his mother Indira over Bangladesh, Rajiv finds in the situation in Sri Lanka the opportunity to divert attention from multifarious troubles at home.

But the Indian bourgeoisie is worried about more than its own domestic situation. In the context of the imperialist war drive against India's diplomatic ally, the Soviet Union, the international implications of the developments in Sri Lanka are making New Delhi nervous. Moreover, India has its own regional hegemonic ambitions (it is building a large navy base in the Andaman Islands, to the east of Sri Lanka). The Chinese deformed workers state,

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New York Times

South Korea...

Continued from page one

overthrow of dictator Chun Doo Hwan and the generals.

Popular anger has boiled over in response to several events. One was the death by torture of 21-year-old student Park Chong Choi after his arrest for anti-government agitation on January 14 by a special anti-Communist police squad. Police torture in South Korea is routine, but this time the government was forced to admit to it. In April, Chun abruptly terminated negotiations with the barely tolerated bourgeois opposition parties on revising the rigged constitution imposed in 1980. The present wave of street battles erupted June 10 following Chun's anointment of Roh Tae Woo, a long-time crony and fellow general, as his successor when the president's term expires next February.

Hundreds of students occupied the grounds of the Catholic Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul, where they were extended sanctuary by the Catholic hierarchy and besieged, but not stormed, by the cops. An outpouring of support for the Myongdong students followed. On June 13, several thousand workers from downtown shops and offices gathered to taunt police. When students left the cathedral on the 15th, after police lifted the siege in a deal with church officials, thousands of Seoul residents spontaneously rallied nearby, chanting slogans denouncing the military dictatorship. On the 18th, as protesters took over the city center, students overpowered 80 cops who had run out of tear gas, stripped off their riot gear and burned it in the street.

WASHINGTON'S BUTCHERS

Washington is backing its puppet Chun. Despite some misgivings in the State Department, the Reagan White House is determined to stand by this butcher. On June 17, Shultz declared "the best thing...would be for the demonstrations, with their potential for violence, to stop and the dialog to resume". The White House does not want to "jeopardize a smooth transition of power when (Chun) steps down," reported the New York Times (16 June). The military dictators who inhabit Seoul's presidential palace are US creatures and have been since 1945. For over four decades South Korea has been a front line in the anti-Soviet Cold War. Indeed, US imperialism's first major war against the Sino-Soviet states, between 1950 and 1953, was fought on this peninsula, a war which killed 3 million Koreans out of a population of 30 million.

Ever since, the US troops stationed in South Korea have helped police this bloody police state. Shortly after Chun came to power in a 1980 military coup, he consolidated his rule by massacring hundreds to crush an insurrection in the city of Kwangju. In that battle, students and workers battled a full army division and seized military vehicles. The Special Forces troops which carried out the massacre were released from duty along the Demil-



Macmillan, Inc

July 1953: cheering North Korean POWs return home. Korean War frustrated Washington's anti-Soviet drive for world domination.

itarized Zone with North Korea and replaced by US troops. So it was quite appropriate that the butcher Chun was the first foreign head of state to visit the Reagan White House in January 1981. But the US role in the Kwangju massacre has powerfully fueled anti-American feeling among the Korean masses.

The liberal opposition, heavily religious and middle-class, looks to Washington for support. Its most prominent leaders are the "two Kims" -- Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam -- both mainline bourgeois politicians who recently founded the Reunification Democratic Party. Such is the hatred for the generals' rule that Kim Dae Jung almost won a rigged election in 1970 against Park Chung Hee even under conditions of virtual military dictatorship. Under Chun, Kim was sentenced to death, then reprieved as a favour to the US, and now lives under chronic house arrest in Seoul. During several years in exile in the US, Kim Dae Jung hobnobbed with the liberal Democrats who sponsored exiled Philippine patrician Benigno Aquino before he returned to Manila and was assassinated by Marcos. Kim remarked last year: "We need strong government to effectively control the military and to have a strong defense posture against the North Korea threat."

Aligned with the two Kims are Roman Catholic cardinal Kim Sou Hwan and other Christian religious organizations. Their base, particularly the Catholics, is an upwardly mobile professional elite which chafes under military rule. The shock troops of the opposition are the university students, numbering 1.2 million in a population of 41 million. Largely children of the middle classes, the students

are the future administrators and technocrats of Korean capitalism. But while the Kims and the cardinal court the US State Department and Congressional Democrats, the students chant "Yankee Go Home!" along with "Down with the Dictatorship!" To force the 40,000 US troops out and bring down the military dictatorship will require a workers revolution. And workers revolution in the South also poses a proletarian political revolution against the Stalinist-ruled North Korean bureaucratically deformed workers state.

THE TWO KOREAS — OFFSPRING OF THE COLD WAR

From 1910 to the end of World War II Korea suffered under the savage colonial regime of Japanese imperialism, comparable to the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe. In 1945, in order to get the Soviet Union to enter the war against Japan, the US imperialists agreed at Potsdam and Yalta to let the Red Army occupy the northern half of Korea down to the 38th parallel while the US would get the south. On 8 August 1945, the Red Army moved in, bringing along the Communist-led guerrilla detachments who had been fighting the Japanese in Manchuria (and many of whom had been integrated into the Red Army during World War II). Among them was Kim Il Sung, the Stalinist ruler of North Korea. But after pressuring Moscow to attack Japan, Truman dropped A-bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in large part as a warning to the Soviets.

In the South, mass demonstrations were organized to greet the Americans as liberators of Korea from Japanese imperialism. The US colonial administration

under General Hodge used Japanese troops and police to shoot down these demonstrators. That was a taste of what the Koreans could expect under US imperialism. Syngman Rhee, a nonentity who had been living in exile in the US for decades, was brought back and imposed as US puppet.

While Stalin and the North Korean regime basically accepted the artificial division at the 38th parallel, the US never did and transformed the divided peninsula into a principal battleground of the anti-Soviet war drive in the Far East. The victory of Mao's Red Army in the Chinese civil war, smashing Chiang Kai-shek and overturning landlord/capitalist rule, infuriated the imperialists. Particularly after the recriminations over "who lost China," Washington sought to "rollback Communism" to the borders of the Soviet Union. When the North Korean army responded to US provocations by crossing the border on 25 June 1950, the puppet South Korean army collapsed with mass desertions.

Rhee's forces along with the US contingent were driven back to Pusan on the southern coast in weeks before American troops massively intervened. Truman declared a "police action," which meant he didn't ask Congress for a declaration of war. Under General Douglas MacArthur (one of Ronald Reagan's heroes), US forces (barely disguised under the UN flag) drove to and across the Chinese border on the Yalu River. However, the Chinese counter-attack drove the imperialists back to the 38th parallel. While Truman nixed MacArthur's plans to nuke Manchuria and sow a radioactive bolt of cobalt across the peninsula, the use of nuclear weapons was held back only because Russia by then had the bomb.

Today the 40,000-man US contingent is formally described as a "trip wire" in case of North Korean attack; in fact it is the forward position of the US anti-Soviet war machine in the northern Pacific. According to the Soviet publication New Times (15 June) the US in South Korea has "beaten all records for saturation with nuclear weapons, of which there are more than a thousand units. There is one per less than 100 square kilometers of South Korean territory." The peninsula is a trip wire ... for World War III.

FROM RICE BOWL TO INDUSTRIAL DYNAMO

South Korea has been transformed in a historically short time from an overwhelmingly agrarian society to an industrial, largely urban country -- albeit a poor one,

Melbourne Herald

Australian troops in the Korean war, 1950. Dogs of war for bloody imperialist counterrevolution from Korea to Malaya to Vietnam.



AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

with one-eighth the per capita income of Japan or the US. In 1930, 95 percent of the population in southern Korea was rural. The Japanese built up industry in the north under conditions of virtual slave labor. In 1940, factory and mine workers numbered 300,000. Today there are 13 million workers in the South, over 3 million in industry, concentrated in large modern auto, steel and ship-building factories. In 1986 South Korea registered its first-ever trade surplus of \$4.5 billion, mostly exports to the US.

South Korea's "economic miracle" rests on state-sponsored private monopolies, the *chaebols* -- like Daewoo, owner of the world's largest textile mills in Pusan -- which have made a handful of Koreans filthy rich. Seventy percent of the national economy is in the hands of just six companies. At the same time, South Korea is a major sphere of exploitation by American and Japanese capital. In fact, South Korea may well have the highest rate of exploitation of any relatively industrialized country. Industrial workers average 54-hour weeks with no overtime and get paid, on average 43 percent less than the cost of subsistence living. The big plants are run like military camps. Unions have been effectively banned except for a government-run "labor" federation.

Recently some illegal independent unions have arisen. Militant workers face the cops, gangs of company thugs known as "soccer

As iaweek



South Korea's growing industrial proletariat key to smashing military dictatorship, forging revolutionary unity with North Korean workers and peasants.

teams," and a computerized blacklist jointly run by the Ministry of Labor, the bosses and the KCIA secret police. Nevertheless, on occasion the tinder explodes in defiant struggle, and it has happened more frequently over the past few years. In April 1975, thousands of auto workers seized the Daewoo Motors plant; two months later thousands of women workers picketed with students at the Kuro textile factory in Seoul. Last May Day thousands of industrial workers in Incheon, protesting working conditions, confronted riot police with clubs and iron bars.

Stalinist-ruled North Korea under the other "two Kims" -- Kim Il Sung and his son and anointed heir, Kim Chong Il -- seems to be in a time capsule. With its planned economy, the North successfully industrialized long before the South, which for instance did not surpass the North in steel production until 1975 de-

spite having twice the population, and despite the strain on the North of maintaining a 700,000-man army to guard against the imperialist/puppet forces on the other side of the DMZ. North Korea produces all its own weapons -- but the technology in the factories is 25 years old or more. Kim Il Sung maintains a "cult of personality" that Stalin could envy, and pursues an isolationist policy of "self-reliance," *juche*, the Kim Il Sung version of "socialism" in half a country. Yet the social gains of the revolution are impressive: no starvation or homelessness; universal medical care; a national system of education and childcare.

MILITARISM AND REACTION

Given the intensity of the social contradictions, to maintain their rule the South Korean capitalists probably need bonapartism, and that means the army. It's no accident that the South Korean government has been a sequence of one dictatorship after another. Syngman Rhee was brought down by mass student demonstrations in 1968 and fled to Hawaii. An elected government was overthrown nine months later by the army coup which brought Park Chung Hee to power. The KCIA blew Park away as he wined and dined during street demonstrations in October 1979. Chun came out on top in infighting among the generals that followed (with the help of his buddy Roh,



who called in his Ninth Infantry at a critical point).

The South Korean army was begun in the 1940s with cadres trained by the Japanese officer corps, graduates of the Japanese-run military academies -- ie, they were puppet troops, the collaborators in a ruthless colonial repression. During the Korean War there was a vast anti-Communist expansion of the army, and in the Vietnam War they rented two divisions to the US. These South Korean troops had the highest kill rate of any units in the field in South Vietnam. Chun and Roh served together in Vietnam. This regime is also intimately tied in with an international network of counter-revolutionary terror. The sinister Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon is a creature of the KCIA. The Moonies organize not only glassy-eyed cultists but also Latin American death squads. And Korean Air Lines -- also closely tied to the KCIA -- was used in



Worker/student protesters captured army vehicles in 1980 Kwangju uprising.

Reagan's KAL 007 provocation in which over 200 innocent passengers were killed in a spy mission over vital Soviet military installations in the Far East.

We would like very much to see this regime shattered: it is a sinister force for counterrevolution worldwide. No doubt many in the bourgeois opposition in Seoul dream of a Cory Aquino solution: chants of "people power" are heard in the streets. We don't know much about South Korea. But one thing is clear: "people power" sure won't work, and Reagan is not about to put Chun on a plane for Hawaii. Unlike the Philippines, there exists in South

KOTRA

revolutionary perspective in that half-country that does not also look northward across the DMZ. Everybody in Korea seems to be for "reunification." The generals dream of doing it through counterrevolution in the North. The opposition pays lip service to reunification as a national goal standing "above ideology." Nationalist students see the ouster of the US as the precondition for claiming the heritage of a united nation. The North Korean bureaucracy proposes utopian schemes for a federated unity, while it opposes workers revolution in the South. Reunification will occur on only one of two counterposed paths: counterrevolutionary war on a short road to worldwide nuclear oblivion, or revolutionary reunification through socialist revolution in the South and proletarian political revolution in the North.

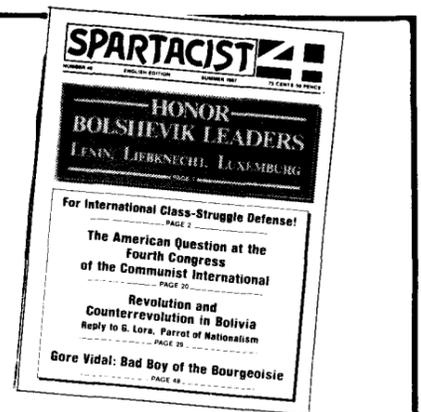
The nationalism of the courageous Korean student youth reflects the strong influence on events of Korea's position between China and Japan, two major powers with a colonialist history. Japanese revolutionists have a special duty to oppose the Japanese bourgeoisie's racist, imperialist contempt for and exploitation of the Koreans -- including the Korean minority within Japan itself -- in order to forge revolutionary unity of Korean and Japanese workers. Only through the Trotskyist program of proletarian internationalism will socialism triumph in Korea. US out of Korea! For military defense of the USSR, North Korea and the other deformed workers states! For revolutionary reunification of Korea! For Trotskyist parties in Korea, North and South! Reforge the Fourth International, world party of socialist revolution!

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Millions in Compensation!

Lindy Chamberlain: Victim of Anti-Woman Witchhunt

Lindy Chamberlain's baby daughter, Azaria, was killed by a wild dingo at Ayers Rock in central Australia on 17 August 1980. As if this tragedy were not enough, she became the victim of a spiralling state and media witchhunt and was outrageously convicted for the murder of her daughter and jailed for three years. In jail she gave birth to another daughter, who was taken from her. She was framed-up by the courts and cops of territorial, state and federal governments, involving half a dozen court cases including two inquests, a murder trial, two failed appeals, and a Royal Commission.

Presided over by Justice Morling, (infamous for fining the meatworkers union \$1.7 million and the recent deportation of four Tamil refugees), the Royal Commission was to clean up the excesses of this witchhunt run amok. The Morling Inquiry totally whitewashed the witchhunting state prosecution and exonerated the cops, and pronounced that there was insufficient evidence to convict the Chamberlains. The Northern Territory (NT) government granted them a pardon: for something they didn't do!

For Lindy and Michael Chamberlain the battle is not over. They are fighting for complete exoneration and compensation. Already the NT government, having spent millions to frame Lindy, is opposing compensation, saying outrageously that the Chamberlains have been making money out of the publicity! Lindy Chamberlain is innocent! The Chamberlains must be exonerated and paid millions in compensation!

The witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain has been one of the more grotesque and vicious of the witchhunts which are a signature of the Hawke Cold War regime. Hawke's Labor government began its reign with the witchhunt of David Combe, ex-national secretary of the Labor Party under Whitlam, for his association with Soviet Embassy official, Valeriy Ivanov. Maoist union leader Norm Gallagher was thrown in jail for contempt of court, a precursor to the smashing of the Builders Labourers Federation. High Court judge Lionel Murphy, attorney-general in the Whitlam government, was framed up for conspiracy to pervert the cause of justice and hounded to his death. Gay radio personality Bill Hurrey, the tiny Pedophile Support Group, and blacks at Toomelah in New South Wales have all, like the Chamberlains, been victims of frame-ups enforced by the state's cops and courts.

A climate of fear is being imposed in the service of regi-



Lindy, and daughter Kahlia, born in jail, and separated by ruthless capitalist "justice."

menting the population behind Hawke's drive to war against the Soviet Union. Police and ASIO phone tapping, trumped-up legal charges and attacks on the right of association and free speech are being used to cohere a docile and compliant population. Unions, minorities, damned near everyone has a stake in seeing this strong state drive beaten back and smashed.

EVIL ANGELS

The Lindy Chamberlain case has captured headlines from Saudi Arabia to New York. A film starring Meryl Streep is soon to be released based on Evil Angels, the excellent book by Australian novelist and ex-lawyer John Bryson. Bryson thoroughly proves Lindy Chamberlain's innocence. He carefully reconstructs the night at Ayers Rock, demonstrating that many witnesses knew the baby had been taken from the family tent by a wild dingo. He tells how the camp ranger, Derek Roff, who had been warning the government of increased dingo attacks on children, felt his worst fears fulfilled. The black trackers too, who followed the dingo prints from the tent until the tracks were lost in the footprints of the 300-strong search party, had been expecting something like this to happen, as dingoes became less frightened of the tourists who threw them scraps of food.

The basic facts surrounding Azaria's death were quickly submerged in a police, court and media witchhunt. From the beginning, the cops were against the Chamberlains, regarding them as "weird" because of their religious convictions as practising Seventh Day Adventists. The cops es-

pecially hated Lindy Chamberlain who emerged as an assertive, articulate and strong-willed fighter. The first inquest held in Alice Springs, NT in 1980-81, amidst what Coroner Denis Barritt referred to as "months of innuendos, suspicion, and probably the most malicious gossip ever witnessed in this country," (Bryson) found that Lindy and Michael Chamberlain were not responsible for Azaria's death, and that the baby had been killed by a wild dingo.

EVERINGHAM ORDERS FRAME UP

Barritt also sharply criticised the NT police force for non-reporting of crucial information, and for "lack of complete objectivity" in forensic investigations. Stung by this challenge to its authority, the Country-Liberal Party Everingham government

swung into a new investigation of Azaria's death. In September 1981, at a secret meeting organised by Everingham, NT Police Commissioner McAuley and NT Detective Sergeant Charlwood, the British "forensic expert" James Cameron presented his opinion that the baby had been decapitated, providing the excuse Everingham needed to open a second inquest. Des Sturgess, now notorious as Queensland's anti-gay and anti-woman Director of Public Prosecutions, earned his laurels setting up the murder charges against Lindy Chamberlain in the second inquest.

A murder trial in the NT capital of Darwin in 1982 convicted Lindy Chamberlain for murder and sentenced her to life imprisonment with hard labour and Michael Chamberlain as accessory after the fact with 18 months jail commuted to a three-year good behaviour bond. A mounting public campaign by witnesses and supporters defending Lindy's innocence, including Bryson's popular Evil Angels, was beginning to embarrass the Hawke and Everingham governments. The discovery of Azaria's matinee jacket in early 1986, which the prosecution claimed did not exist, compelled the NT government to release Lindy and establish a Royal Commission.

COPS' LIES

The trials of Lindy Chamberlain were based on cop theories that she had murdered her child. The state never had a case. Lionel Murphy, one of the dissenting judges in the High Court's 3-2 rejection of Lindy Chamberlain's appeal against her conviction, noted, "This is a somewhat extraordinary case when you consider the various things that were absent that one would normally

Australian Natural History



Dingoes can be cute, but they are also dangerous predators. Here a dingo inspects the rotting carcass of a water buffalo.

get -- the absence of motive, admission, body and weapon." The NT cops and state prosecution manufactured the following incredible story and maintained it for nearly seven years. Lindy, carrying Azaria, takes her young son to the tent, puts him to bed, then takes Azaria to the family car. She changes her clothing, slits the baby's throat, probably with scissors, cuts the baby up, stuffs the pieces in a camera bag, and again changes her clothes, returns to the general company with a can of baked beans and informs Michael of what she has done. All this in the space of five to ten minutes!

Bryson dedicates much of *Evil Angels* to destroying the prosecution's parade of "forensic evidence." The star forensic expert Cameron claimed there was an adult handprint on the baby's jumpsuit: a mark since proven to be dirt! The prosecution's local forensic expert, Joy Kuhl (rewarded for her services with a job in the NT government), maintained that a spray of blood on the floor of the Chamberlain's car proved that the baby was killed in the car. Kuhl's famous "arterial spray" turned out to be sound-proofer used in manufacture! Bryson captures Joy Kuhl, glorying in the media limelight, peddling her bigotry amongst journalists during the murder trial: "All the time, she was there behind me. Staring. She just stares. She is, you know, a witch. I could feel her eyes burning holes through my back."

TRIAL BY MEDIA

The media campaign to crucify Lindy Chamberlain fed on and into the mean-minded bigotry and prejudice that gives capitalist Australian society its nasty small-town quality. That the Chamberlains are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church, a small and devout millenarian sect who have suffered victimisation for practising vegetarianism and celebrating Saturday as the Sabbath, was used to paint them as beyond the main stream. From the beginning, picking up on tidbits fed to them by the cops, the yellow bourgeois media created a garish circus of rumour and malice, all lies: Azaria meant sacrifice in the wilderness; she was spastic; she was the baby of an illicit affair; she was regularly dressed in black. The media witchhunt was replete with sensational stories of devils and bizarre black rituals: a baby's coffin in the Chamberlains house; a passage in the family bible detailing an ancient sacrifice, marked in red. The baby's coffin was an anti-smoking prop used by Michael in church meetings, the red mark in the bible was colour transferred from an illustration on the facing page. Complementing the medieval hysteria was an endless stream of gruesome reports: blood in camera bags, cars, on clothing; conjecture about quantities of blood spilled, how far blood would spurt, the variety of ways to decapitate a baby, ad nauseum.

The role of the sycophantic bourgeois media in the witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain has been to brutalise the population, sowing in it suspicion, ignorance and fear. The gutter press whipped up a

national obsession with the case, developing a broad base of support for the witchhunt. Young women paraded outside the Darwin courthouse during the murder trial wearing T-shirts proclaiming "The Dingo is Innocent." Bryson captured the mood engendered in much of the population, quoting the taxi driver pronouncing with deliberation: "They ought to burn the bitch."

ANTI-WOMAN BIGOTRY

The rampant sexism in this remote white imperialist enclave made a woman of the calibre of Lindy Chamberlain a perfect tar-

get for witchhunting. The bourgeois media focussed on the fact that Lindy is an intelligent, assertive woman, who has displayed enormous reserves of strength. These characteristics were regarded as a liability by her lawyers and journalists who followed the case. Bryson recreates a sharp discussion between Lindy and Kirkham, her lawyer during the murder trial:

"I know it's difficult for you," Kirkham said, "but you must hold your temper. You sound too harsh, too angry."

"I am angry," she said. "What do you expect?"

"It's not going over too well with the jury. Try to be more," he cast around, "demure."

She was angry all over again. "I am the way I am," she said. "The jury will have to get used to it."

It is precisely these qualities, manifested in a woman, which were used by the media to portray Lindy as an aberration in Australian society. It speaks volumes about the oppression of women in Australia that it is held that women should be dumb, passive subjects. The Australian Jewish writer, Morris Lurie, expressed the thoroughgoing misogyny characteristic of Australian society when he wrote:

"Is our society unique in its hatred of women? I don't think so. Here is a friend telling me of the seven months that he was in Saudi Arabia. On a Friday afternoon he was standing outside a palace beside a parade ground, and there were Indians who, as indentured labour, are the bottom of the pecking order, digging a hole. He watched. Then a couple of tip

trucks came and they tipped out loads of bricks. People began to drift in from all over the place, and, suddenly, there was a large crowd. Then a van came and brought a woman. They threw her down the hole, and the men stoned her to death. She was a prostitute. Hatred of women. In Australia we have to do it in some kind of legal way. That is what we did to Lindy Chamberlain." (Morris Lurie, interviewed in *Men on Women*, Kevin Childs, 1986).

Lindy Chamberlain was witch-hunted in a manner worthy of the Salem witch trials. She was vilified by the media because she



Prosecutors' lies, bourgeois press' hysterical bigotry, unmasked in John Bryson's *Evil Angels*.

would not cry, and because she would not smile. Her stony appearance in the courtroom was portrayed as cold unrepentance. Her attention to dress, covered by the media with all the small-mindedness of the social pages, was seized upon to complete the picture of a cold, calculating murderer. Little matter that she had nothing to repent; that her "emotionless" exterior was evidence of her resilience and self-respect in the face of the massive campaign against her. Arthur Miller's famous play, *The Crucible*, an allegorical attack on the anti-communist witchhunts in the United States in the 1950s, using the vehicle of the 17th century Salem witchhunts, describes precisely the campaign against Lindy Chamberlain. The main prosecutor, the deputy governor, rages against one of Salem's victims, Elizabeth Proctor (who like Lindy at the time of her trial was

pregnant):

"Are you stone? I tell you true, woman, had I no other proof of your unnatural life, your dry eyes now would be sufficient evidence that you delivered up your soul to hell! A very ape would weep at such calamity! Have the devil dried up any tear of pity in you?"

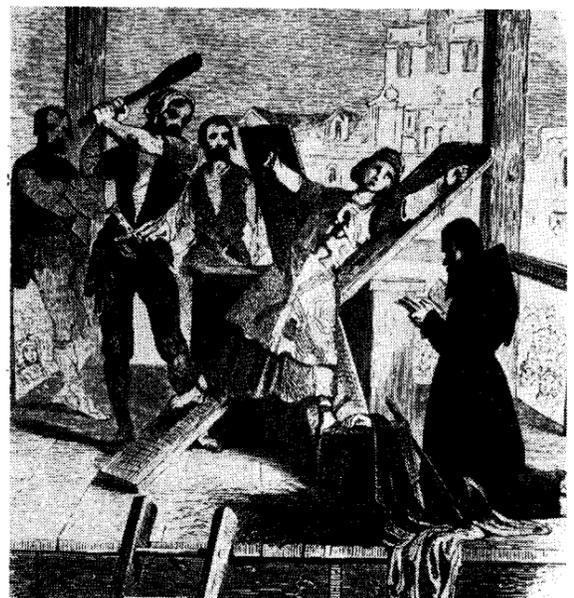
The witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain played a part in reinforcing the position of women as the core of the nuclear family -- in this role women are to be subservient, not defiant and outspoken. The hypocrisy of the official bourgeois morality, which sanctifies the nuclear family, was sharply exposed in the state witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain, which sought to destroy her family.

Hand-in-hand with the anti-woman bigotry went racism. Blacks who comprise nearly half the NT's 130,000 population are forced to live in apartheid-like conditions. The fact that there is no parole in NT is particularly directed against blacks, and is one measure of the oppression they suffer. One of the first responses of the Alice Springs cops to the disappearance of Azaria was to raid the Aboriginal settlement at Ayers Rock. Bryson documents how the cops entered the home of Ada Nangala and Toby Nanyinga without a warrant, which is their standard operating procedure, and began searching the rubbish bin, looking for "evidence." Nanyinga protested: "You think I ate the child?"

Since the first inquest the crucial evidence of the black trackers has been ignored, resurfacing only in the Morling Inquiry. They have been treated at best as non-people whose evidence is either irrelevant or positively prejudicial to the defence. When black trackers took the stand in the Morling Inquiry the prosecution attempted to ridicule them. A woman tracker, Barbara Tjikadu, who testified that the dingo she tracked from the Chamberlain's tent was carrying a baby, was repeatedly asked to admit that it could have been carrying a joey. Her interpreter translated her impatient reply: "Mr Adams," she said, "you are talking in your way using your language and you are talking about lies." When asked the same question yet again she eloquently replied, "Was a kangaroo living in the tent?" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 12 June 86)

Continued on page eight

A woman being tortured and crucified before she is burned as a witch during the Spanish Inquisition. In contemporary Australia the state and media conjured up devils, doctors and dingoes to "prove the guilt" of Lindy Chamberlain.



Chamberlain...

Continued from page seven

During the recent Morling Inquiry, Lindy Chamberlain launched an attack on the judicial system:

"I had sat on juries myself at that stage and I believed the police were honest and I believed you get in court and you tell the truth and an intelligent reasonable outcome was decided by intelligent people. Now I realise that parts of the truth are given, parts are withheld or selectively put over... sometimes for political, sometimes personal, reasons.... The way it is now, anybody could be set up on anything."

— Sydney Morning Herald, 10 February 1987

The point is that we live in a bourgeois society where "justice" serves the ruling class, and the courts are primarily vehicles to keep everyone else in line.

DOWN WITH THE WITCHHUNTING HAWKE GOVERNMENT!

The vicious witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain by the Everingham

and Hawke governments is a message to everyone that the rule of the state is inviolable. Democratic rights, from the common law premise of innocent until proven guilty, to the right to free association and the right to organise and strike, are being thrown on the dustheap by the Hawke Labor government. The labour movement, which has suffered years of



Labor Year Book

Justice Lionel Murphy, witchhunt victim hounded to his death.

getting it in the teeth, has the social power to fight back against the growing attacks on democratic rights. To defend its own organisations the working class must defend the rights of all the oppressed, and of all those, such as Lindy Chamberlain, who suffer at the hands of bourgeois rule.

The Australian ruling class is venal and xenophobic, the fearful bourgeoisie of a white, sparsely populated, privileged enclave in Asia. "Little Australian" social-democratic nationalism is proud of its brutally male chauvinist and self-indulgent philistine "national character." The total indifference of the trade union bureaucracy to the witchhunt of Lindy Chamberlain is an indictment of Laborism's thoroughgoing male chauvinism. The kept union bureaucracy has never paid more than lip service to organising the largely migrant women who slave in garment sweatshops and do long hours of piecework in their homes for a pittance, nor to fighting for equal wages and employment opportunities for women workers. The Laborite bureaucracy is the chief obstacle to independent proletarian struggle, from the fight to

defend democratic rights to the fight for the overthrow of oppressive and exploitative capitalist rule.

Only thoroughgoing social revolution can root out the prejudice and bigotry which characterises Australian culture. From amongst the massively oppressed working women will come some of the greatest fighters for proletarian revolution — for a communist women's movement! The real compensation for the years of witchhunting suffered by the Chamberlains, and for all those who suffer at the hands of the state, will be the sweeping away of capitalist society and its replacement by the planned economy and state power of the working class which alone can provide the basis for justice and freedom. There is a vast reservoir of downtrodden, disaffected people who hate this society and would dearly love to see its demise. A racially-integrated Trotskyist party, rooted in the proletariat and acting as the tribune of all the oppressed, will win to its banners the toiling masses and lead the way forward to a decent world. ■

Labor...

Continued from page one

paving the way for smashing the militant Builders Labourers Federation (BLF). The easy victory Hawke got with the BLF, destroyed wholesale by an unholy alliance of the entire trade union bureaucracy with the cops, was a watershed. We fought then, as now, for the road of class struggle to bring down the union-busting Labor government. For strikes against the bosses attacks, with mass picket lines! For industrial unions built in struggle against craftist scabbing!

STATE OUT OF THE UNIONS!

Hawke plans the BLF treatment for the entire working class. His corporatist vision is the forcible merger of the 300-plus craftist unions into 20 company unions, resembling the BWIU/FEDFA monolith which was built on the broken remains of the BLF. It's the West German model, largely a creation of the post-war US occupation. But then Hawke is the CIA's man. The legislative mechanism for accomplishing this task is the Industrial Relations Bill (IRB), tying the union movement ever more tightly to the state. The Petersen government's legislation outlawing all industrial action under the threat of \$250,000-a-day fines, has been overridden by Hawke's IRB: changing the fines to \$5,000 per day! Smash the anti-union legislation! Smash Arbitration!

The policing of the working class has been carried out by an alliance of all wings of the union bureaucracy, including lefts like Laurie Carmichael and Tom McDonald, with the Hawke government. This alliance was cemented over anti-Sovietism, from support to reactionary Polish Solidarnosc to carrying out war measures, banning mail to the USSR over the KAL 007 spy provocation. With anti-Sovietism and racist protectionist schemes the Laborite tops are holding out the bogey of the "external threat" in order to prostrate the workers before their imperialist rulers. The precondition for victorious class struggle is the complete and unconditional independence of the trade unions from the capitalist state. The workers of the world have no country! The future of the Australian proletariat lies in joint struggle with the toiling masses of Asia. Forward to a workers republic of Australia, part of a Socialist Asia!

HAWKE — ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

The Hawke government is the proven enemy of all decent people, expecting them to raise their right arms and shout "Sieg heil." Take Tourism Minister John Brown: "They call me the government's Goebbels ... but I don't mind that ... he was the only one of the Nazis who wasn't a homosexual" (Sydney Morning Herald, 11 June). This bigoted pig sounds like he'd be happier wear-

ing a stormtroopers uniform! The massive oppression of the Aborigines is an index of this government's viciousness. Hawke's Cold War regime is killing blacks! At least 13 young black men have died in jail in the last seven months. Aborigines are branded as surrogates for "Libyan terrorism." And those who defend themselves against racist vigilantism, like the courageous Toomelah 21, are railroaded!

Literally everyone is in Hawke's sights. Massive cuts to education, social welfare, health care, housing, you name it; anti-gay, anti-sex AIDS hysteria; the social-democratic totalitarian Australia Card legislation: all further re-

forced to choose the lesser evil, and there can be no doubt that Labor is — though a very great evil — still the lesser evil" (Direct Action, 17 June). The Healyites-without-Healy of the Socialist Labor League (SLL), corrupt political bandits but nonetheless organic Laborites, are campaigning around the slogans: "Fight for a workers government. Return Labor to office. Demand the 'lefts' expel the Hawke-Keating right wing and form a workers government." Absurd Healyite "black is white" dialectics. Not only do the SLL have no scruples, they have no brains.

The SLL express the vision of all the reformists: pressuring the

The Australian



Cold Warrior Hawke (centre) struts beside Reaganite big brothers, Shultz (left) and Weinberger.

press and immiserate youth, the aged, women, minorities. The working class has the social power to roll back the strong state drive against democratic rights, which means championing the rights of all the oppressed!

HAWKE'S ACOLYTES

All the reformists, from the Communist Party, architects of Hawke's Accord, to the pathetic Stalinist Socialist Party, to the anti-Trotskyist, Ustasha-loving Socialist Workers Party (SWP), are campaigning for Labor, but finding it a little hard to sell. The SWP captured it best: "we are

Labor "lefts" to take over from the rights and peacefully legislate "socialism." This parliamentary cretinist, "White Australia socialism" is consistent with the Laborite dream of a "fair share" in the prosperity of a "democratic workers paradise" for the white man.

Politically the ALP "lefts" and their parasitic hangers-on are the left wing of Australian imperialism. They also have a material interest in seeing Labor in power. In a perceptive article, "Why the left is playing dead," (Australian, 13-14 June), journalist Greg Sheridan noted that "the left may not have power, it may have lost the intellectual debate, it may be

SPARTACIST FORUM

Down with Cold War Laborite Racism and Union Busting!
Workers Need a Revolutionary Party!

1pm, Thursday 16 July

The Committee Room 3rd Floor, Union Building
Melbourne University

Free Geronimo Pratt!

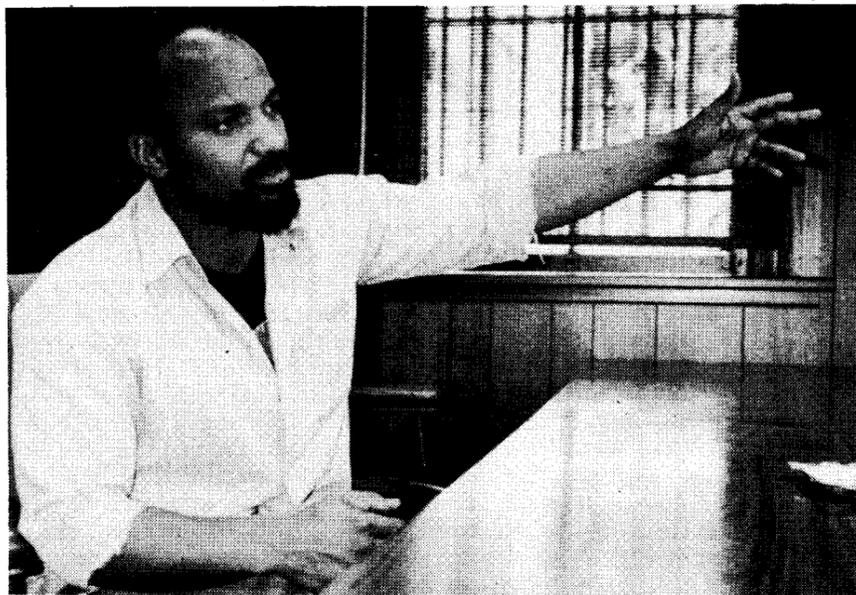
Workers Vanguard

On May 5 the California Board of Prison Terms summarily denied parole to former US Black Panther Party leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, America's foremost class-war prisoner. A government conspiracy, spearheaded by Reagan's top cop, Attorney-General Edwin Meese, locked Pratt away 17 years ago for a crime he could not and did not commit.

Pratt was a victim of the FBI's murderous COINTELPRO ("counterintelligence program") campaign which targeted black militants for physical extermination in the late 1960s and early 1970s. COINTELPRO directed 233 of its 293 operations against Black Panthers, killing 38 of Pratt's comrades. As Partisan Defense Committee (PDC) representative Richard Dundy stated at a January 23 Spartacist League/US forum in New York on fighting racist terror: "The FBI/COINTELPRO destruction of the Black Panther Party was for its generation the starkest example of state terrorism — the vicious naked fist of the rulers."

Pratt himself narrowly escaped assassination in a full-scale Gestapo-style raid on Los Angeles Panther headquarters in the pre-dawn hours of 8 December 1969. The house was subjected to a five-hour barrage, and Pratt's bed riddled with bullets. This highly decorated Vietnam veteran survived because he was sleeping on the floor to alleviate his war wounds. His subsequent arrest for "conspiracy to assault policemen" was such blatant rubbish that an overwhelmingly white jury threw out the charges! Instead Pratt was jailed on more minor weapons charges. His wife Sandra, eight months pregnant and also a Panther member, was found dumped on a freeway "mysteriously" shot in the head.

Having failed in outright murder, the racist capitalist state tried to bury Geronimo Pratt alive. In 1971 he was framed for the murder of a school teacher (an anti-war activist), on the testimony of an FBI informer who lied about his connection at the trial. Pratt was 500 miles away visiting Panthers in a heavily bugged house — the FBI "lost" wiretaps proving his innocence. At a court hearing in January 1985 retired FBI agent Wesley Swearingen openly admitted "He was set up." Pratt has steadfastly refused parole based on "admission of guilt," and after 17 years in jail, eight of them in solitary confinement, he



Geronimo Pratt, America's foremost class-war prisoner.

remains unbroken, committed to the liberation of all the oppressed and to continuing the fight for his own freedom.

The Black Panthers were targeted for extermination because in the period of Martin Luther King's civil rights movement and pacifist opposition to the Vietnam War, they represented the best in a generation of fighters. They stood for the right of armed self-defence against Klan and government terror, and taught that black people had a right and duty to defend themselves against racist violence. But their nationalist perspective meant the Black Panthers were unable to mobilise the tremendous social power of the organised, integrated labour movement. The fight to free Geronimo Pratt now is more urgent than ever, as a vital part of the fight against racist terror, union busting, and the wholesale assaults on basic rights in the US in the Reagan years. This is the domestic component of the anti-Soviet war drive, which Reagan put Meese in charge of precisely because of his bloody "accomplishments" against the Panthers such as the state vendetta against Pratt.

The Partisan Defense Committee is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal defence organisation in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League/US. The PDC is modelled on the International Labor Defense of which James P Cannon, an early Trotskyist, was a leading member. Cannon wrote in 1927: "They want to know if ... they can wreak their revenge upon these rebels, who have not feared

to defy them, by burying them alive and at the same time liquidating the movement which must free them!" (Notebook of an Agitator). PDC activities include sending monthly stipends to class-war prisoners such as Geronimo Pratt. The PDC has actively taken up the fight to free Pratt, organising demonstrations such as that in Oakland, California, on February 21, where over 200 rallied in his defence. This demonstration was covered by Radio Moscow which noted that Pratt is among the prominent "dissidents suppressed by the United States."

DROP CHARGES AGAINST TOOMELAH 21!

In its internationalist tradition the PDC has also taken up the case of the Toomelah 21 in Australia, a group of Aboriginals from northern NSW facing 28 charges for taking action in self defence against vicious racist attacks in Goondiwindi, Queensland, last January. A PDC solidarity telegram to the Moree (NSW) Aboriginal Legal Service on 6 April declared: "World's workers must lead the fight against racist and cop terror from Harlem to Soweto to Queensland."

The black freedom struggle in the US has inspired Australian blacks, for example, in the 1965 Freedom Rides to Moree, and the formation of a Black Panther Party in the early 1970s, which conducted self-defence patrols in Brisbane. Living under apartheid conditions, Aboriginals in imperialist white Australia have faced increasing racist terror in Cold War II. Several dozen young black

men have been murdered in police/prison custody in the last four years. On 26 May three blacks were bashed near Mildura in Victoria by racist thugs in full Ku Klux Klan gear and similar race-terrorist gangs have been reported from Goondiwindi and Katherine in the Northern Territory. Under both Reagan and his lackey Hawke, the drive toward anti-Soviet war has given the green light to race terrorists at home. Our strategy is to mobilise the power of the organised working class and minorities in mass action to smash the fascists, like the 5000-strong labour/black mobilisation organised by the Spartacist League/US which stopped a planned Klan march in Washington in November 1982. In Russia the anti-semitic pogroms of the Black Hundreds were crushed for good in the 1917 October Revolution. The Klan doesn't ride in Moscow!

At Pratt's May 5 hearing, the parole commissioners displayed a vindictiveness and an open hatred for what he represents that shocked even prison guards and newspaper journalists covering the case. The board arrogantly dismissed the latest in a long series of reports praising Pratt as a "principled individual and an idealist and supporter of human rights" whose "prognosis for parole should be excellent."

At the parole hearing the Assistant District Attorney Vezzani lashed out at the many who have come forward in the cause of Pratt's freedom: "He has a network of people who will assist him in any way he wishes," she railed, and also that he is "still a revolutionary"! This frenzy is indeed testimony to the breadth of support for Pratt's cause, and the fear it instills in the US capitalist class. In response to appeals from the PDC and others over 2000 letters were sent to the parole board, and more than 1000 so far to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals where Pratt is fighting for a new trial. But for final victory, labour and its allies must rely only on its own independently organised strength and power in opposition to all wings of the capitalist class. Free Geronimo Pratt! For black liberation through socialist revolution!

* * * * *

We urge our readers to support the work of the PDC by becoming a sustaining contributor. Pledges may be sent to the Partisan Defense Committee, PO Box 99, Canal St Station, New York, NY 10013 USA. Donate \$10 or more and receive a subscription to the PDC publication, Class Struggle Defense Notes.

making less contribution to policy formation than ever before, but it has got jobs and money." In a very real way the traditional "left" is being paid to police capitalist austerity.

Pledging themselves to Labor, the various left groups standing candidates deserve not an iota of support. Amongst them is expelled Labor left, Bill Hartley, and his newly-formed Industrial Labor Party, standing for a return to "Labor principles." But Labor under Hawke is true to type. From WWI to Hawke's hero Curtin in WWII to Chifley's use of troops

against the miners in 1949, the ALP is the party for policing the working class in times of war and crisis.

The objective conditions for socialist revolution are already overripe. Willing to fight the capitalist austerity and by no means

committed to Hawke's anti-Soviet war plans, the working class faces a crisis of leadership. The urgent necessity is the construction of a Bolshevik party, section of a reformed Fourth International, dedicated to the establishment of proletarian state power through socialist revolution. ■

Spartacist Class Series

Sydney University

The Russian Revolution of 1917
Thursday 16 July at 5pm

For Women's Liberation Through Socialist Revolution!
Thursday 30 July at 5pm

Barnard Eldershaw Room, top floor, Manning Building

Spartacist League

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Sri Lanka...

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aligned with the United States against the USSR, has been supplying arms to Lanka. In recent months armed clashes have taken place in the disputed mountain border areas of India and China. Meanwhile Sri Lanka has been developing closer ties with India's arch foe Pakistan, to whom Colombo appealed for assistance in setting up an air defense system after the Indian operation. India is already angered by reports that Pakistan has the bomb, and by the US decision to provide Pakistan with AWACS radar planes.

A veritable gaggle of close allies of US imperialism -- Britain, Israel, South Korea, Pakistan and Singapore -- are providing training and equipment to the Sri Lankan government. The Wall Street Journal (29 May) clearly expressed the imperialists' preoccupations:

"Trincomalee in the hands of pro-Soviet forces would be a strategic disaster for the US. It would provide Moscow with one more stepping stone extending its reach from Vladivostok in the Soviet Far East through Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam toward the vital oil routes out of the Persian Gulf, now again a major US concern. Bear bombers and anti-submarine warfare operating from Trincomalee would further tilt the naval balance toward the Soviets."

The Indian capitalist ruling class very much fears the growing possibility of a US imperialist-brokered encirclement. Tapping the ugly divide-and-rule legacy of British imperialism, the US-led anti-Soviet war drive fuels anti-Tamil communal slaughter.

CLASS STRUGGLE NOT COMMUNALIST WAR!

The policies of indiscriminate terrorism endorsed by the Tamil nationalist guerrillas have escalated the communalist slaughter. The latest incident in the cycle of inflammatory racialist violence was on June 1 when passengers on a bus hired by Buddhist monks were machine-gunned in an ambush attributed to Tamil guerrillas. Thirty-seven people were killed, most of them monks. In Colombo, hundreds of Sinhala youth have been lining up at army depots to volunteer, while the Indian high commissioner has warned Indian citizens in Colombo to gather at hotels for safety.

The editor of the liberal magazine Lanka Guardian, Mervyn de Silva, laments that "Only a miracle can help us avoid the impending implosion" Lanka Guardian, 15 May). The Sri Lankan left, which for years has been wedded to popular frontism, allied with the most chauvinist Sinhalese forces (notably supporting the "Sinhala Only" movement which first unleashed the anti-Tamil frenzy), is now in despair. But even at this late and ominous hour, it is desperately necessary to forge the Bolshevik-type party, intransigent in its fight for an internationalist revolutionary working-class perspective, that our comrades of the Spartacist League/Lanka are fighting for.

For the right of Tamil Eelam! No to communalist bloodletting! Trinco must not fall into the bloody hands of US imperialism!

For the federated workers republics of Eelam and Lanka, part of a socialist federation of South Asia!

— Reprinted from Workers Vanguard, no 430, 12 June 1987

Fiji...

Continued from page twelve

warships just happened to be in Suva on the day of the coup. The revelation that the strategic US spy base at Pine Gap collects "comprehensive intelligence about military developments in the South Pacific region" means it had a role in this piece of imperialist dirty work also. Fiji itself is hardly strategic but they fear the spread of the "Kiwi disease" — referring to New Zealand's ban on US nuclear ships — through the island micro-states, which cover vast stretches of ocean where US warships prowl. Bavadra's pleas that they would not allow the Soviets to open an embassy cut no ice with the crazed warmongers in Washington and Canberra, for whom any dereliction of Cold War duty is "anti-Western."

The Pacific, an American lake since World War II and ringed by US military bases and alliances, has seen a massive anti-Soviet war build-up in recent years. A major nuclear flashpoint is in the North Pacific around Korea and Japan, key to US "forward strategy" to bottle up and destroy the Soviet Pacific fleet in its bases. Another Cold War hot spot is Vietnam, whose victory over US imperialism (and its allied troops from Australia, New Zealand and South Korea) over a decade ago resulted in Soviet access to bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang. We defend the historic gains of the Russian and Vietnamese Revolutions and welcome the Soviet naval presence in the Pacific, crucial to staying the hand of the imperialist madmen. Meanwhile, the huge US bases in the Philippines rest on the unstable ground of the crisis-racked Aquino regime.

The small South Pacific islands have not figured prominently in American geostrategic war plans except perhaps as weapons testing grounds — eg, the H-bomb tests at Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the 1950s in which the native populations were forcibly removed and suffered supposedly "accidental" radiation contamination which became the subject of war "studies." There are also some key American bases, such as Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands.

COLD WAR LIBYA SCARE

Even after independence movements began in the 1960s and 1970s, South Pacific island governments were considered firmly "pro-Western." But in the 1980s second-generation leaders have charted a more independent course which has caused the White House to see reds under the beds. In 1985 the small atoll group of Kiribati signed a fishing agreement with the USSR which brought in much-needed cash. Last year a broader agreement between the USSR and Vanuatu gave the Russians access rights for Soviet boats and landing rights for the Soviet airline Aeroflot. The pro-NATO Jane's Defence Weekly (23 May) recently noted

that the target of ANZUS-sponsored "exercises" a few years ago was a mythical "enemy" country which was "sited just about where, in reality, Vanuatu sits astride some of Australia's most sensitive lines of economic and political communication."

The US needs a junior partner to take care of its South Pacific rear and Hawke's Australia is ever willing. Hawke has raised the spectre of Libyan penetration of the region, supposedly as a surrogate for the Soviet Union. So Hawke has issued barely veiled threats to give Vanuatu the Grenada/Fiji treatment because of its Libyan contacts. As usual Hawke was dancing to the Reaganite tune; when the Wall Street Journal said it was time to expel the Libyan Peoples Bureau in Canberra, it was ordered out within 24 hours! Hawke also brought the Libya scare home with a vicious witch-hunt of Tasmanian Aboriginal leader Michael Mansell for attending a conference in Libya, and appealing for support to fight Australian racism.

Hawke's "condemnation" of the Fijian coup was mainly a "democratic" imperialist posture for domestic consumption, behind which he moved rapidly to legitimise this Cold War fait accompli. Mara, the governor-general, the Council of Chiefs and Rabuka are all house-trained flunkies who jump when Canberra says so, with the warships and threats of trade sanctions to make sure. Thus, though Hawke put troops on stand-by ostensibly to "evacuate tourists" and apparently considered invasion (with the most war-crazy of them all, defence minister Beazley, all gung-ho for "meeting them on the beaches"), the last thing he wanted was to restore the "lawfully elected" Bavadra whose ministers were barred at the door of the Forum. Hawke would have gone in only if Rabuka had lost control, to restore "order" through drowning the masses in blood, just as in 1920, when a mass strike by Indian sugar cane workers was smashed by New Zealand troops and an Australian warship. The duty of the Australian working class is to fight Australian imperialism, exploiter and oppressor of Fiji's oppressed masses, for example through political strikes demanding Australian Imperialism: Bloody Hands Off Fiji!

In New Zealand, prime minister Lange was initially more aggressive than Hawke, proposing to fly Fijian troops back from the Near East to put down the coup. His Labour government's anti-nuke policy reflects the New Zealand bourgeoisie's own mini-imperialist ambitions in the region. Lange has of late been anxious to prove that NZ without nuclear ships can still be a good Cold War soldier, expelling Russian diplomats and pursuing illusory Russian submarines round the Cook Islands.

"LITTLE AUSTRALIA" SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS

The Fijian coup drew a hard line on the Australian left between the Spartacist League which says the main enemy is Australian imperialism, and the social-democrats and Stalinists who urged Hawke to act more aggressively in defence of its little sphere of influence. Criticising Hawke's "inadequate" response,

they demanded he impose trade sanctions to "restore democracy" and uncritically cheered Bavadra who treacherously appealed to Hawke, Lange, and most obsequiously, the Queen, to send a "peace-keeping" force. As anti-Soviet but also anti-American nationalists, the reformists' exposure of CIA dirty tricks contrasts with their amnesty of Australian imperialism. At bottom they fear that the Cold War Hawke regime is selling out Australia's South Pacific preserve to US big brother.

With a bit more left cover and a trade-unionist twist, this was also the line of the Socialist Labour League (SLL). While denouncing Australian military intervention and Bavadra's call for it, the SLL backed the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) blockade of all trade to Fiji. This was the Cold War ACTU bureaucrats' class-collaborationist Accord with Hawke in foreign policy, designed to back up Hawke's grandstanding as shining knight of democracy, and called off at his bidding. But the SLL called on the ACTU to re-impose these pro-imperialist bans, and said "Hawke's opposition to union bans exposes the fraudulent nature of his calls for a return to 'democracy'" (Workers News, 26 May). Moreover it absurdly called on imperialist lapdog Bavadra to lead a general strike, when he was calling for imperialist troops.

Revolutionaries oppose the ACTU's pro-government blockade, and fight for effective class solidarity action directed against the Australian ruling class and its military. A concrete opportunity came at Cockatoo Island dockyard in Sydney, when orders came down to rush through repair work on a naval ship to go to Fiji. Militant ironworker and Spartacist supporter Neil Florrimell agitated for class-struggle action to oppose Hawke's war moves, meeting a receptive ear from union militants, who are facing the government's threats to close the island. The "left" union leadership on the island killed this off, revealing that the navy was "exempted" from the ACTU bans, clear proof of their pro-imperialist nature.

FIJIAN "DEMOCRACY" — IMPERIALIST DIVIDE AND RULE

Australia's island neocolonies are economic slums hopelessly dependent on aid, getting poorer every year as their population grows, their tiny industries crippled by Australian protectionism and the immigration escape route from poverty increasingly closed off by racist barriers. Larger and more viable than most, Fiji's economy is 80 percent Australian-owned. Colonial Sugar Refining (CSR) was Fiji's version of the United Fruit Company in Central America, monopolising the sugar industry for nearly a century. The Indian sugar workers were originally imported as indentured labour for its plantations, slaves in all but law. After reaping decades of super-profits, CSR was generously bought out in 1973 by the government — "independence" meaning little more than handing over running the plantation to local intermediaries.

The simple-minded Australian "left" has tried to deny any communalist factor in the coup, but

AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Break With the Labor Traitors - Occupy Cockatoo!

With grandiose pretensions of building a "two-ocean navy" the Cold War Hawke government has embarked on Australia's biggest program of naval construction since World War II. To clear the way, Hawke is on a union-busting, job-slashing rampage against the historically militant shipbuilding workers. First Newcastle State Dockyard was closed, then in May they announced that Williamstown Naval Dockyard will be privatised and the lease on the government-owned, privately operated Cockatoo Island Dockyard in Sydney won't be renewed in 1992. For the remaining shipyards like Garden Island, this means speed-up and new attacks on established union conditions. Mostly reliant on naval work these days, Cockatoo is obsolete, intentionally run-down and in the eyes of the bosses and the government its workforce is "lazy," strike-prone and riddled with reds. So they want to scrap it, destroying 1600 jobs and a stronghold of militant unionism. Hawke's sergeant-majors in the union bureaucracy are working overtime to ensure that everyone goes quietly, diverting their ranks into a sellout campaign for redundancy pay. We say: Occupy Cockatoo Island! No Layoffs! For a shorter working week at no loss in pay, to spread available work around! Only some hard class struggle can stop this jobs massacre and the time to fight is right now. A determined, well organised shipyard occupation, holding the bosses' property ransom for jobs, could spark struggle throughout the working class against capitalist austerity.

Following the coup in Fiji, orders came down to rush through work on the navy training ship Jervis Bay for urgent despatch. Spartacist supporter, ironworker Neil Florrimell agitated for holding it to strike a blow against

Hawke's Pacific warmongering, getting a good response from many militants, but the shop committee leadership clamped down hard, defending the exemption of the navy from the ACTU's pro-imperialist bans. Then on June 10 at a mass meeting to discuss the closure, a big contingent of union officials turned out to push their usual line: no strikes, above all at election time, vote Labor instead. But many workers aren't buying this do-nothing line, greeting it with a lot of hostility and calls for action. Florrimell gave Australasian Spartacist this account of his speech to the meeting:

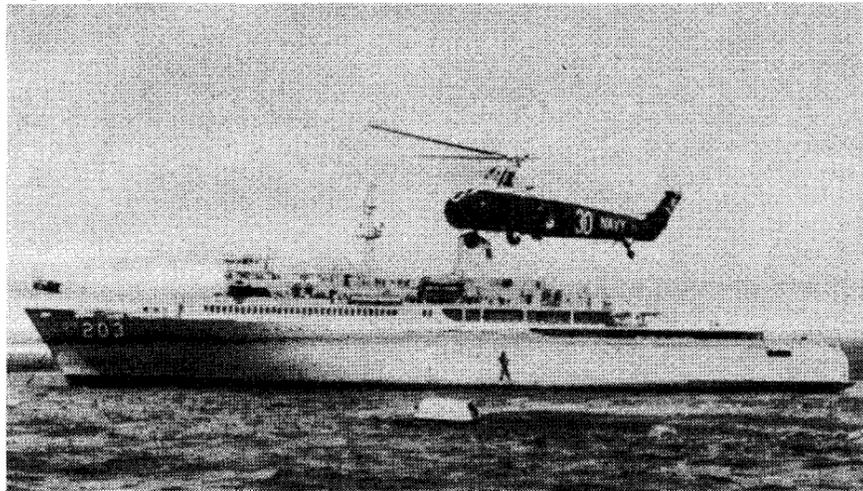
"I took the floor and said: Surprise, surprise, the officials have told us nothing except to look after the Labor Party's arse ... two weeks ago we had a unique opportunity to really strike a blow against Hawke.

The government was sweating on getting the Jervis Bay out of dock to send to Fiji so Hawke could do his bit as Reagan's deputy sheriff policing the South Pacific for his and Ronald Reagan's insane war drive against the Soviet Union. We could have had Hawke by the balls but moves to hold the ship were squelched by the shop committee. 'Cause they got the line from the officials and that line is, lay down and die, so Hawke can get in for another three years of union-busting... They are our enemy, from fronting for Hawke's destruction of the BLF, giving Unsworth a free hand to destroy workers compensation, to initiating organising the shop committee to set up a committee to negotiate giving away our conditions as part of the second tier of the national wage

case. These people are Hawke's cops policing the working class. But we have hundreds of thousands of allies if we fight.... What the working class of this country needs is a class struggle workers party committed to socialist revolution that can sweep away this rotting system that promises only racism, war and unemployment. Not the Labor Party which is committed to propping up this decaying capitalist system at the expense of the working class. I say let's strike, let's occupy this island! And to hell with the Labor Party!"

As usual shop committee chairman Bill Haggerty, a former member of the shady, fake-Trotskyist Socialist Labour League, bailed out the bureaucrats with his stock proposal to await further ACTU negotiations. When the vote on a motion from the floor for limited strike action went very close, Haggerty declared it lost without a count. For years the bureaucrats pleaded with Hawke to build more warships in Australia, but their loyal anti-Sovietism and nationalism has only helped Hawke cut the shipyard workers' throats — destroying jobs wholesale as he builds warships full blast. In 1945 the small Australian Trotskyist group of Nick Origlass led a historic six-week strike in the Balmain shipyards in defiance of the imperialist war effort, the Labor government and the Stalinist trade union tops. The Spartacist League stands in this tradition. We fight to oust the pro-capitalist union bureaucrats and replace them with a revolutionary leadership of the working class that tells the truth — the fight for jobs must be linked to a struggle against Australian capitalism, its government and its war build-up. ■

Fighting Ships



Moves to hold Fiji-bound Jervis Bay (above) squashed by pro-imperialist, Laborite shop committee leaders.

the fact is that the former British imperialist masters of the islands left behind a knotty ethnic problem in Fiji as they did practically everywhere they went (Ireland, India, Cyprus). Thus the much-ballyhooed "democratic" constitution was in fact thoroughly anti-democratic, designed by the British to perpetuate the political supremacy of their agents, the Fijian chiefs. Fijians were guaranteed ownership of most land (with the chiefs taking the lion's share of the mostly Indian tenants' rents), overwhelmingly dominated the army and ran the government, leaving commerce, industry and the professions to the Indians. Bavadra's Labour Party, under the tutelage of the Australian and NZ Laborites, tried to bridge the racial divide with a mildly reformist program. But it was not hard for the agents of imperialism to whip up a demagogic anti-Indian racist campaign as a backdrop for the coup.

NEW CALEDONIA: FRENCH IMPERIALISM OUT! AUSTRALIA STAY OUT!

In addition to Australia and the US, France is active in the region
JULY/AUGUST 1987

— witness its 1985 bombing of the Rainbow Warrior peace ship in New Zealand, to prevent it from sailing to the site of a French nuclear test. In New Caledonia, imperialism has bequeathed another intractable communal conflict which could outlive direct colonial rule. The generally privileged Caldoches (which represent between 35 and 40 percent of the population and are largely descendants of French settlers, French exiles, including from the Paris Commune, and other "Europeans"), together with descendants of immigrants from Vietnam, Java and French Polynesia (who work the nickel mines) comprise an anti-independence majority over the Kanaks, the pre-colonial Melanesian population. The Chirac government in France has announced a new "referendum on independence" designed to reaffirm the colonial ties. Marxists denounce Chirac's "referendum" fraud and call for a boycott; we demand immediate independence and the withdrawal of all French troops, police forces and colonial apparatus unconditional upon any colonial elections!

The Kanak independence front,

the FLNKS has called for a boycott, but demands a referendum under the tutelage of imperialism in which the franchise would be restricted for the Caldoches to second-generation or older. This position reflects the FLNKS' program for "Kanak independence," a program which is not only a negation of democratic principles for all the other ethnic groups but is also suicidal for the Kanak people. These islands are populated by a mosaic of multi-ethnic groups. All these people have the right to live and exercise their rights in an independent island. The horrible crimes of French imperialism cannot justify a (futile and reactionary) attempt to deny the existence of other minorities and decide arbitrarily which are more equal than others. Moreover every attempt to exclude any of them can only lead to a military solution where the Kanaks will be decisively beaten if not exterminated and is furthermore an invitation to an intervention by the French or by Australia which longs to become the new master of New Caledonia. The expulsion or departure of the more educated, economically active layers would be an economic disaster

disrupting links with the world economy.

Within the confines of these tiny South Pacific islands, where one can hardly speak of full-fledged nations given the small size of the populations and the primitiveness of the political economies, it is absurd to project an isolated "liberation struggle." A future of plenty and equality for the island peoples can be envisaged only in close connection with the proletarian struggles in Australia and New Zealand and especially Japan, the powerhouse of Asia.

But Australian and NZ Laborism are built on "yellow peril" racism with its sordid history of anti-Asian xenophobia and oppression of Aboriginals and Maoris. With significant numbers of immigrant workers from the islands in Sydney and Auckland, the opportunity is there for common proletarian struggle — by cracking the white-chauvinist unity of imperialist Australia and releasing the working class from the shackles of Laborism. The key lies in building a revolutionary Trotskyist party which fights for a racially integrated workers republic of Australia in a socialist Asia. ■



Fiji Cold War Coup: Hawke Up To His Neck in CIA's Dirty Work!

Australia: Bloody Hands Off the South Pacific!

JULY 1 — On the morning of May 14, an opposition MP in the Fijian parliament was expounding on how the "peace and harmony" of this small South Pacific state contradicted Mao Tse-Tung's dictum that political power comes out of the barrel of a gun. Moments later a squad of soldiers led by Lt Col Sitiveni Rabuka burst in and arrested the month-old coalition government of Dr Timoci Bavadra at gunpoint. The coup shattered Fiji's image as a remote South Sea paradise and spotlighted it as a powderkeg of communal-racial division, the legacy of British colonial divide-and-rule policies. It also underlines the increasing impact of the global anti-Soviet war drive on the South Pacific island micro-states. Their chief overlord Australia, under the Cold War Labor regime of Bob Hawke, polices the region as Reagan's "deputy sheriff," in the words of the Soviets.

The imperialist media have tried to paint the coup as simply a parochial "ethnic power struggle" (the Fijian population of 700,000 is divided between the 46 percent indigenous Melanesians and 49 percent Indian descendants of imported plantation labourers.) "Racial hatred ends Fiji's democracy" was the Melbourne Age's headline (15 May). But more and more evidence is surfacing implicating the CIA. Two weeks before the coup, US general and top level White House agent Vernon Walters (former deputy director of the CIA, now ambassador to the UN) visited Fiji. In Washington last month, ousted Fijian prime minister Bavadra suggested that



Fijian coup — in service of Canberra/Washington Cold War.

Walters' visit provided the opportunity to arrange the coup with opposition leaders. He added a bombshell:

"The deposed leader and his personal adviser, Dr James Anthony, said they had evidence from Fijian intelligence sources that figures from the Iran-contra network, such as retired general, John Singlaub, may have been involved in the coup. "It was noted that General Singlaub, the chairman of the World Anti-Communist League and fund-raiser for the Nicaraguan contra rebels, was in Fiji before, during and after the coup."

— London Guardian, 17 June Remember 1975, when Australian Labor prime minister Gough Whitlam was ousted at the behest of

the CIA by governor-general Kerr, simply for asking too many questions about the US spy base at Pine Gap.

COLD WAR COUP

The Fiji coup serves Washington's anti-Soviet Cold War, and the interests of its Australian imperialist junior partner. Since independence in 1970, Fiji had been a "model Pacific democracy" and regional Cold War pivot, ruled by Ratu (chief) Sir Kamisese Mara's Fijian-dominated Alliance Party. The 2500-strong Fijian army is trained by Australia, NZ, Britain and more recently the US, with over half of it manning imperialist "peace-keeping" forces in the Sinai and South Lebanon. Mara "befriended the Reagan administration by reversing Fiji's ban on visits by US nuclear ships," noted the Wall Street Journal (26 May). But in April, Bavadra's coalition of the new trade union-based Labour Party and the Indian-based National Federation Party (NFP) won the election and formed Fiji's first mainly Indian government (though also with significant Fijian support). Washington and Canberra were antagonised by its pledge to again close Fiji's ports to US nuclear warships. Rabuka, who went golfing with Mara before the coup, made clear his motives:

"First of all the way the foreign policy was being taken. I believe it was heading towards pushing Fiji away from traditional allies...the Foreign Min-

ister in the Government I have just ousted (Mr Krishna Datt) is a known, frequent visitor to the Soviet Union, as is the Finance Minister. The other one is that his Cabinet is dominated by the Indian race and the Fijians feel their land rights being taken away."

— Sydney Morning Herald, 18 May

Rabuka emerged as the instrument of Mara and the Fijian "Great Council of Chiefs," established by the British to "cede" Fiji to the Crown in 1874. And this very British coup found its "constitutional" figleaf in the Queen's representative, the governor-general, who emerged at the head of an "interim" regime in a deal dictated under the guns of seven Australian and two New Zealand warships, several standing directly off the capital Suva. The regime has imposed press censorship, suppressed trade unions and imprisoned a number of opponents including union leaders. However multiracial protests continue especially in the west, where the sugar cane harvest has been held up by strikes by the mainly Indian growers and mill workers. Many Indians want to leave and the economy faces ruin. Fiji is poised on the brink of bloody repression and possibly descent into a communal civil war.

A year ago US Commander-in-Chief Pacific Admiral Hays worried "about the growth of the Fiji Labour Party" (Manchester Guardian Weekly, 24 May) and when Bavadra took office you can bet the CIA was not lazing about on the sand at Waikiki. In addition to General Walters' visit, five CIA men were reportedly seen meeting with Lt Col Rabuka at Nadi airport, and one was seen in parliament during the coup. This was undoubtedly a joint operation with Australian intelligence, for in US eyes Fiji is an Australian protectorate. The Wall Street Journal (18 May) editorialised: "Australia and New Zealand, assuming they would prefer not to be surrounded by outposts of the Russian empire, might have to face up to some greater responsibilities for the peace of the region."

Hawke's rabid Cold War campaign against Libya in recent months gave Rabuka the green light. Hawke undoubtedly had advance warning — two Australian

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Australian CSR grew fat on racist exploitation of Indian sugar plantation labourers.

Socialist Action