November 7 marked the 75th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. But the workers state erected by the Bolshevik power, far and away the greatest conquest of the international proletariat and a momentous leap forward for humanity, did not survive its 75th year. The period of open counterrevolution ushered in by Boris Yeltsin's pro-imperialist coup in August 1991 has, in the absence of mass working-class resistance, culminated in the creation of a bourgeois state, however fragile and reversible. The task facing the Soviet proletariat today is socialist revolution to restore proletarian power and reforge the Soviet Union on the foundation of Lenin and Trotsky's Bolshevik internationalism.

The ascendancy of Yeltsin and capitalist-restorationist forces backing him was a pivotal event in determining the fate of the Soviet Union, but it was not conclusive. In our August 1991 article, "Soviet Workers: Defeat Yeltsin-Bush Counterrevolution!", which was immediately translated into Russian and distributed in over 100,000 copies throughout the Soviet Union, we wrote that workers mobilizations should have cleaned out the counterrevolutionary rabble on Yeltsin's barricades, thus opening the road to proletarian political revolution. As a result of Yeltsin's victory:

"The first workers state in history, sapped and undermined by decades of Stalinist bureaucratic misrule, lies in tatters. The state power has been fractured, the Communist Party—its bureaucratic core—shattered and banned from the KGB and armed forces, the multinational union is ripping apart as one republic after another proclaims secession."

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In the interim there was no decisive action to stop that consolidation. Politically atomized by nearly 70 years of Stalinist usurpation of political life, paralyzed by the CIA-supported pro-Yeltsin "free trade unions" and the virulent chauvinist poison of numerous Stalinist remnants, the multinational Soviet working class has been overwhelmed by the counterrevolutionary tide. The Yeltsin regime seized the advantage to tear away at every vestige of the Soviet degenerated workers state and push through the piecemeal consolidation of the counterrevolution. Quantity has now turned into quality. But the situation cannot long continue as it is. For Yeltsin and other restorationists to nail down a solid capitalist regime, sooner rather than later a bloody reckoning is likely, signaling to the masses that there is a new order. With explosions of struggle by workers driven..."
Workers State Strangled...

(continued from page 1)
desperation, or even without them, the present international forces will move to impose heavy-handed order through a "strong state." The recent vicious crackdown on OMON, AMO, and police, on a strike by air traffic controllers foresthadows the would-be exploited exploited and oppressed of this globe, which destroyed Hitler's Holocaust machine, which for decades kept U.S. imperialism from turning its nuclear arsenal on the world's semicolonial peoples. But the class struggle is not the nascent bourgeois states in Russia, the Ukraine and elsewhere are fragile, isolated and little more than petty speculators and demoralized.

Meanwhile, the working class of the ex-USSR is facing one assault after another. Society is disintegrating, mass unemployment looms. Industrial produc-
tion has dropped 18 percent since the breakup of 1991, while investment has plummeted by 50 percent. To prevent a total collapse, the government has been printing money to finance the deficit: the state budget deficit is escalating to a trillion dollars, which is the huge possibility of a Yugoslav-style fratricidal bloodbath is too real.

The Soviet workers state—which once served as a beacon for the exploited and oppressed of this globe, which destroyed Hitler's Holocaust machine, which for decades kept U.S. imperialism from turning its nuclear arsenal on the world's semicolonial peoples. But the class struggle is not the

August 1991: Plotters of "perestroika coup" kept tanks idling in Red Square (Moscow Times). Five days later, the last anti-Stalinist counterrevolutionary HQ at Yeltsin's White House, ICL statement (right) declared: "Soviet Workers: Defeat Yeltsin-Bush Counterrevolution!"

(Moscow Times) or 20,000 percent (Cominform) by October alone, the ruble fell by half its value. Since January the price of bread has climbed tenfold. As the economy decomposes, the bulk of the population teeters on the brink of poverty. "The workers' strike was the off the tinkerbox on which Yeltsin and his cohorts."

We Trotskyists of the International Communist League, who have fought tooth and nail against ascendant counterrevolution, say: Stalinism is dead, but Stalinist bureaucratic rule. But nationalist movements perquisites would have been hasty to draw this conclusion at that time. It resolved "to note and draw conclusions from the position that the degenerated workers state of Stalin and his heirs has been destroyed."

In the founding program of the Fourth International, written on the eve of World War II, Leon Trotsky wrote: "The historic crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of the revolutionary proletariat." This crisis of political leadership is not less acute today. To the beleaguered multinational proletariat in the USSR and socialists-minded elements in the army and intelligentsia, we say: the key task facing you is to secure a "Trotskyist" vanguard party, forge in struggle around the international proletariat which led your forebears to victory in 1917.

Why Didn't the Workers Rise a 26?

The working class of the ex-USSR and the world proletariat as a whole must digest the lessons of this bitter defeat. Since 1917, the social democracy has served bourgeois masters by directly aiding and abetting imperialist re-

The August 1991 events ('coup' and "counterrevolution") appear to have been decisive in the direction of development in the SU, but only those who are under the sway of capitalist ideology or its material perquisites would have been hasty to draw this conclusion at that time. It resolved "to note and draw conclusions from the position that the degenerated workers state of Stalin and his heirs has been destroyed."

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tainty. Since the failure of the December 1 session of the Congress of People's Deputies, Moscow is awash with nationalism, militarism and a creeping coup. Meanwhile, Yeltsin is engaged in furious negotiations with Alexander Rutskoi, leader of the nationalist "People's Society" landlords, who is in league with the nationalist Russian vice president Aleksandr Rutskoi. The volatility of the present situation is captured in the recent electoral victory of the ex-Stalinist Democratic Labor Party in Lithuania, outsting the rightist nationalist Sajudis movement from office. It did not take long for the ex-Stalinist bu-
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We publish below a translation of the report at the Second International Conference of the International Communist League by comrade Volodya K, first president of Workers Vanguard No 564, 21 November 1992.

I think the key reason for the destruction of the working class was the destruction of the consciousness of the proletariat, a process that began with Stalin. Trotsky’s Left Opposition, which represented the consciousness of the working class. The working class was exploited by the bureaucratic control and not by the bourgeoisie, as they were forced, purposes for which they actually today have precious little support.

In August 1991, we saw some decisive events. The question was posed: whether the bourgeoisie, or perhaps more accurately, whether parts of the Stalinist bureaucracy, which received a death blow in October 1990, was in the process of taking over the state. In bourgeois state, or whether the working class would step in for it. In that moment, the working class could have used the opportunity to take the power, but instead the “red-brown” coalition formed an obstacle to that; the “red-brown” coalition is a way is opposed to counterrevolution, but instead is against the liberalization of Statline rule.

In this situation, as Trotsky predicted, no section of the bureaucracy was capable of opposing the restoration of capitalism. Instead, they simply maneuvered to be able to occupy the best place in the restoration of capitalism. It’s very important to acknowledge that a bourgeois state has a definite consciousness of its end. But it’s also important to realize that this is far from stable, it’s very weak. This represents a transitional moment, but a transition to what?

Today there is massive opposition to the post-countercoup period. The mismanagement and the impoverishment of the population evokes the sharpest hatred toward Yeltsin, but there is no left opposition to guide this. The opposition that does exist today only stands for a strong state. They share the idea that communism is an impossible utopia. They are orienting for a strong state, a strong state based on capitalism.

But the Yeltsin regime is incapable of introducing stable capitalism, the bourgeoisie is very weak. Weak, because it’s without capital backing. The only way strong capitalism can be established is through nationalism and vicious anti-working-class repression, as we have just seen in connection with the traffic on the bosses. The creation of this National Salvation Front that the comrades know about—should that Front come to power, that would result in another decisive blow against the working class.

The Stalinists who think that it’s they who are manipulating the nationalists, the so-called “patrols,” in a temporary bloc, a bloc by which they can simply turn the clock back to before perestroika, are deluding themselves. In fact what they are doing is paving the way for the establishment of a corporate and fascistic dictatorship. It’s a dangerous illusion to delude oneself into thinking that there are forces now in the territory of the former Soviet Union capable of fighting against this counterrevolution. In fact, all of these coalitions are for the sake of facts, not after the National Salvation Front comes to power, then they can resurrect their own power. It repeats the bragging of the German CP in 1933, who said, “After Hitler, us.” It’s a suicidal policy.

What is the real perspective that we see for working class? To explain the best task—to coalesce the nucleus of a revolutionary workers party. This means a hopeless, but the bourgeoisie and the Stalinist government. This means a socialist revolution. Otherwise, if we fall into that, we will consolidate a bureaucr­

At the same time, the bureaucratic elite (the so-called nomenklatura) was totally discredited by the flagrant corruption and cynicism.

Occasional appeals to defend “socialism” made by the more conservative elements such as Yegor Ligachev, fell on dead ears. The Stalinist “patrols,” organized for rallies in the United Front of Working Classes (UFWC), were able to mobilize only a relatively small number of workers.

At the same time, the bureaucratic elite was completely discredited by the flagrant corruption and cynicism. The working class did not rally in resistance against the encroaching capitalist counterrevolution. And, as Trotsky noted in International After Lenin: “If an army capitulates to the enemy in a critical moment, then this capitulation completely takes the place of a “decisive battle,” in politics as well as in trade union activity.”

The Army and the Bureaucracy

What then happened to the armed forces, the core of the state in the Marx­

ist understanding? In The State and Revolution (1917), written against the then-revolutionist view that the working class could simply replace the bourgeoisie for its own purposes, Lenin emphasized: “Revolution consists in the new political organization of the army, in the aid of the old state machine, but in this case smashing this machine and doing away with it. It is an effort to make the army a new machine.” Similarly, social coun­

terrevolution requires the smashing of the state machine to create a new state machine serving the bour­

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At the base, the Soviet military was affected by the same pressures and par­

The workers were wary, if not outright hostile, to the pro-Western advocates of a “market economy.” Unlike in Poland during the rise of Solidarnosc, the forces of capitalist counterrevolution were not able to mobilize the Soviet masses in the name of anti-Communism. In the same time, the bureaucratic elite (the so-called nomenklatura) was totally discredited by the flagrant corruption and cynicism.

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ACTU/THC Tops: Labour Lieutenants of Capital

10 DECEMBER: The massive strikes and 150,000-strong rally in Victoria on 10 November have spurred strike action across the country. The bosses have met this with a wave of arrests and intimidation. The national trade union strike action on the ACTU-called 30 November “day of action,” powerful and lasting, brought widespread capitalist immiseration. “Campaign” there is widespread anger amongst workers across the country to beat back the bosses’ arbitrated pay cuts. The Labor government has been condemned for its role in this.

As veteran Trotskyist leader James P. Cannon said (see box below): "They want to knock the hell out of the unions, so the workers will have no means of defense against the cutting of wages and living standards. That's what is in the cards. No friendly compromise at the bargaining tables, but only mass battles and mass tests of strength."

**Smash Arbitration! For Hard Class Struggle!**

The treacherous ALP/ACTU tops are the chief obstacle to a concerted class-struggle fightback. They are preying on the working class and offering their services to the bosses as enforcers of bankrupt racist Australian capitalist rule. Victorian THC secretary John Halfpenny is counselling workers to bite the bullet and prepare for a “long four-year campaign”—until the next election. This is just fine for Kennett who confidently predicts that he can last it out while expanding his job slashing plans. Halfpenny engineered the cancellation of the 9 December Victorian public transport and power workers’ strike to prevent massed pickets for power workers it could mean job losses of up to 15 percent.

Fearing that Australia’s “social cohesion and economic recovery” were being threatened by industrial conflicts, Kennett has proposed legislation to undercut the strike wave by holding out the possibility of Victorians working for award coverage under a strengthened federal arbitration system. On cue ACTU-assistant secretary Jennie George signalled the cessation of the industrial campaign, claiming that the “choice will be between the Australian Government and a safety net for all working people of award protection and Dr Hewson, deregulation and exploitation“ (Australia, 3 December), Crap! There is no “safety net!” Power workers, for instance are facing mass sack job losses and they are acting on a federal award “safety net!" The working class has never won anything important through the ballot box or the bosses’ courts. Unions must rip up the contract.

10 November: Thousands of jobs have disappeared. As long-time Labor leader Bob Carr spoke out against this cowardly betrayal. A Socialist Labour League supporter put forward a resolution calling on the Labor leadership to break the bipartisan government attacks pointing out that strike action should be linked to the fight for an end to unfair dismissals and fighting any net closures being carried out by the postal bosses.

As Socialist Labour League (LLL) supporter and CWU delegate Keith James was told of this outrageous treachery he replied: “Dear fellow delegates, May, claiming that the strike wasn’t the main question! Not surprising given that the same LLL for Workers News (30 October) denounced the Victorian 10 November strike action as a “phony last stand,” wildcat action. The bosses across the state were fighting against bureaucratic sabotage for the broadest class struggle. Workers are being consciously subordinated to the class enemy in a popular-front campaign to prop up the Labor government and the bosses’ arbitration system. The despot need for a working-class fighting program based on the political independence of the working class from its class enemies. Key to this is a revolutionary internationalist leadership forged in struggle against the pro-capitalist labour-fakers of the ALP.

As Lenin Trotsky wrote in 1940 in “Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay,” the unions can no longer be reformist, because the objective conditions leave no room for any serious and lasting reform. “The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat.”

ISO/LLL Dance to Postal Bosses’ Tune

As noted in our supplement, the treacherous Laborite tops are giving their assistance by a way of the employers. In Australian socialism, all the bosses’ programs call for the bosses. They won’t want to give a few more cents; they don’t want to recognize unions. They want to knock the hell out of the unions, so the workers will have no means of defense against the cutting of wages and living standards. That’s what is in the cards. No friendly compromise at the bargaining tables, but only mass battles and mass tests of strength.

The workers, under such conditions, must and will turn to militancy and throw up leaders of a new AFL. Any new AFL must be the federation of the insurgent movement of the workers in the mass production industries in the old AFL unions. This must be: any new AFL must be the federation of the insurgent movement of the workers in the mass production industries in the old AFL unions. There will be no successful class struggle if there are no new trade-union leaders out of the ranks. And it is in just such a situation, when class collaboration is out the window and the class struggle is on the agenda, that the supreme expression of the workers’ class militant, will get a hearing and become the mentor of the militant new staff of leaders arising out of the shops and the factories. —“The Coming Struggle for Power,” America’s Road to Socialism (1933)
Miners, Transport, Maritime, Power Workers: Strike Together Now!

From Kennett to Keating, Bury the Union Busters!

With the wave of strikes centred in Victoria and now spreading across the country the opportunity is presented to turn the one-sided war against the working class and poor that has been waged over the last decade by the capitalist rulers of this country. But these actions are being carefully dispersed, limited and sabotage by the union bureaucrats. Workers are being consciously subordinated to the class enemy through a popular-front campaign to prop up the Keating government and the Arbitration courts as the “best” mechanism to cut jobs and conditions whilst avoiding the threat of a massive working class response to Hewson/Kennett’s “confrontational” approach. It is crucial to fight for the political independence of the working class from its class enemies and their agents within the workers movement, the Laborite union tops. What is needed is a revolutionary leadership!

As our leaflet/supplement (see page 2) warned, Victorian Trades Hall Council Secretary Michael Easson urges workers not to strike on the 10th November “an ACTU-endorsed public relations ‘day of protest,’” but to limit action to “bunchtime rallies, pamphlet drops and prayers for good industrial relations.” Easson declared that “a lot of people wanted people on their legs in the street. I wanted them on their knees” (Australian, 12 November) Victorian workers are front line in a class confrontation that affects all working people in Australia. It was the Victorian-centred mass strikes in 1969 over the jailing of union leader Clarrie O’Shea which successfully freed him and led to the wholesale loss of penal power for over a decade. Instead of Halfpenny, Easson and Co’s social-democratic governing, what is needed is the strategic big battalions of the working class to come out in united national strike action to defeat the union bosses from Kennett to Keating, Miners, transport, maritime, power workers: strike together now! Build giant mass pickets and flying pickets to ensure strikes are solid and victorious.

On 10 November some 800,000 of Victoria’s two and a half million workers went on strike for the day. Most private industry, business and the city continued to function, as was Halfpenny’s intention. The predictable result is that Kennett is forging ahead confident that union opposition will exhaust itself. He has announced the axing of 6,800 jobs in education, the closing of 52 schools, thousands more jobs to go from hospitals, transport, and the public sector in general. Meanwhile, even as they (mis)lead strikes the union bureaucracies continue to push through their own “re-structuring” agreements with the bosses. The communication and metal union tops are currently ramming through deals that exchange paltry wage increases for long standing union rights and conditions, agreeing to slowdowns, company rationalisation schemes and job losses.

Workers across Victoria were pushing to join the 10 November strike. Shop floor and delegates’ meetings in industries “exempted” from the strike, as in Telecom and the tramways, voted to go out, but were overruled by their union tops. It is necessary to oust these “labour lieutenants of the capitalist class.” Forge a class-struggle leadership!

The Russian revolutionary LD Trotsky, writing in the 1930s, accurately captured the nature of the bureaucracies’ manoeuvring: “... the leadership of the strike previously, i.e. without struggle, arrived at an agreement with the class enemy in the course and outcome of the strike. The parliamentarians and the trade unionists perceive at a given moment the need to provide an outlet for the accumulated ire of the masses, or they are simply compelled to jump in step with a movement that has flared over their heads. In such cases they come scurrying through the backstairs to the government and other concessions to the class enemy, this with the obligation to conclude it as soon as possible, without any damage to the state crotchet.”

“The ILP and the Fourth International, 18 September, 1935

“New World Disorder” Barbarism

The Australian ruling class is full of triumphalism over the imperialist lie of the “Death of Communism.” But caught in the grip of the inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and Japan, “burdened with debt and being squeezed by its international creditors, it is driven to exorbitantly increase its rate of exploitation of the working class as well as the super-exploitation of its Pacific neocolonies. In prospect are more mass strikes as being met with workers’ and anti-fascist struggles (including massive contingents of young people from Germany, to Italy to Greece. The power of the Australian working class must be unleashed at home and linked up with workers’ struggles internationally. The years when the mining-based Australian economy, which drew fabulous profits from exports to the major imperialist powerhouses of Europe, North America and Japan—could generate sufficient wealth to give the working class a relatively high and comfortable standard of living are long gone. The international economic crisis which has hammered these economies has left the Australian economy a shambles.

It is in this context that a wing of the ruling class exemplified by Peko-Wallend and Western Mining bosses is attempting to abolish the historically evolved corporatist system of “labour relations” embodied in the Arbitration system and is aiming to slash high tariff protection to industries. If the other hand others want to use Arbitration to slowly chop away the gains of the working class, its organisation and consciousness, as the Hawke/Keating government has done since 1983. A few months ago Ford, BHP and textile bosses came out in support of the Labor government’s deep cuts to union rights. High levels of protectionism for manufacturing industries. Now even the pro-Tory Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry is expressing “qualified dissent” at Kennett’s industrial relations program (Financial Review, 25 November). There is a rotten popular front ranging from major industrial companies, the Keating Labor government, sunday church hierarchies through to the union bureaucracies that are cynically manipulating workers’ anger against the Kennett/Hewson Tories into re-electing Keating.

The ACTU’s “national day of action” for 30 November is directed solely against Kennett and Hewson, pushed under the flag-waving slogan “Defend the Australian way of life.” The Australian way of life! Tell that to unionists who have seen their unions busted over the last decade. Tell that to Aborigines, subject to racist police terror and murder under the Labor governments. Tell that to women forced out of jobs and back into the home, or slaving in low-wage non-unionised jobs then heading back to the stifling family heath to toil on the “second shift” of household drudgery. Tell that to the unemployed, the students, foreign-born workers, all victims of years of Labor government-run capitalist austerity and official racism. Tell about Australian democracy to the Pacific island slaves of Australian imperialism, or to the Bougainvillean people being starved and tortured to death by the Papua New Guinea neo-colonial servants of Canberra.

The “day of action” is focused around continued on page 7
Spartacist Supplement, 6 November 1992

All Out! Shut Victoria Down Right!

We reprint below a leaflet distributed by Spartacist supporters to striking workers in Victoria on 10 November. Nationally, 20,000 copies of the leaflet have been handed out to workers and students.

Kennett's Victorian Liberal government has proclaimed war on the state's workers and poor. Tens of thousands of public transport workers have been attacked along with savage cuts to public transport, education, health and social services. Eager to copy the Bush regime's media hype, Kennett's legislation aims at destroying existing award conditions, gutting penalty rate entitlements, removing holiday loadings, gutting workers compensation and outlawing strikes in "vital" industries. This is a political onslaught which must be fought by the trade unions and their allies. Already a groundswell of working-class outrage has forced the Victorian Trades Hall Council (THC) to announce state-wide general strike action on 10 November. It is going to take hard class struggle that stops Kennett and Keating in their tracks, and it has to be organised across (federal and state) industries throughout the state and spread nationally. For a general strike that closes the state down tight! No slashing!

In 1969, the workers' movement in Melbourne rose to the challenge. The THC/ACTU solidarity campaign against the State government aviation strike fought abortion law enforcement for over a decade. Now Halfpenny calls to defend the "independent umpire," the Arbitration Court, against Kennett. In contrast, what is needed is working-class independence from the capitalist state. Shut Arbitration Court! Nothing important was ever won by the working class through the ballot box or the bosses' courts. Spread the anti labour laws! The only "illegal" strike is one that loses!

Kennett has threatened to use his new legislation against the strike, throwing strikers and picketers in jail. Greiner trialled outlawing last year's NSW general strike too, but a massive turnout from across the state halted him. There must be such a massive turnout of maritime, transport and power workers that Kennett's cops don't dare show their faces on the streets. Militant mass picket lines organunised—predominantly the tens of thousands of mainly women immigrants in non-unionized sweatshops across the state and country. Students who have fought education cutbacks, youth facing a bleak future of unemployment, oppressed minorities have to be drawn into a common fight.

Recession-ridden Australian capitalism is today transforming an increasing number of workers into chronically unemployed paupers. What's needed is a fight for a sliding scale of wages and hours to fight unemployment! Make the bosses pay through spreading the available work around! Fight for massive wage increases to make up for the years of Accord wage slashing! Such a struggle is key to unity and organising the unemployed in a working class fightback.

The aftermath of Cold War has brought a capitalist dictatorship with gigantic new preparations for inter-imperialist war, a rising world tide of racism and fascism and renewed attacks on the working class. The Australian ruling class, with an economy slipping deeper into recession, is caught in the diversity of strata and interests between the U.S. and Japan. Their solution is to savagely increase unemployment amongst workers whilst enforcing strong state reaction against working people, students and the deeply oppressed Aboriginal population. Meanwhile racist Australian imperialism is increasing its brutal exploitation of its Pacific neo-colonies, with the Keating government brainwashing and arming the Papua New Guinea state's savage war against the Bougainvillean separatists.

Workers in this country and across the globe are increasingly combative, from the German public workers strike earlier this year, the massive strike wave in Greece to the biggest workers mobilisation in Italy since the "hot autumn" of 1969. Defined by the International Spartacist Solidarnosty "free market" regime, Polish workers are resisting their systematic subordination to the IMF. A strike wave during recent months embraced coal and copper miners and workers who chanted "Down with Wales!"

To sabotage workers international solidarity the Laborite bureaucrats push racist protectionist schemes, lining them up with their "own" bosses. This undermines the necessary class unity of the multiracial Australian working class, setting them up against their class brothers and sisters in Asia and the world.

Meanwhile racist Australian imperialism have consistently defended strong state reaction against workers international solidarity. With racist protectionist poison comes their racist scapegoating of immigrants at home. Keating (spurred on by the ACTU bosses) has massively increased round-ups of "illegals" and their incarceration in concentration camp detention centres. Meanwhile the sinister bands of the Socialist Labor League who are setting themselves up as "unions" as "bankrupt organisations" condemn the planned strike itself as a "capitalist attack"—an open invitation to scab.

All of these organisations have supported the counterrevolution now raging throughout the former deformed workers states of eastern Europe, bringing devastation to the working people. So what can they possibly have to say to workers in Australia? In contrast, from Berlin to Warsaw to Moscow the International Communist League has fought the capitalist-restorationist drive all along the line.

Reformism is a dead end. What's necessary is to forge a Leninist/Trotskist party in the course of sharp class struggle, splitting the working class from the pro-capitalist parties of the Labor Party. Revolutionaries must fight the road to a racially-integrated workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Australia.

Australasian SPARTACIST

For a workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!

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AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST
defence of the "independent umpire" of the Arbitration Court. The Arbitration system is a corporatist structure which has evolved over decades. The courts of the capitalist state regulate the unions in every sphere, from wages and conditions to the conduct of strikes to the election of union officials and the distribution of union funds. Under the federal Labor governments of Hawke and Nowlan, the Arbitration Court sanctioned Accord has imposed give-backs and job slashing which have eroded working conditions and organisations. This has paved the way for today's Tony government attacks. Victorian Labor ex-Premier Kennett now reveals that her government wanted to can the union busting attacks similar to Kennett's and Halfpenny agrees that there must be cuts. The labour fakers who have turned Karl Marx's famous observation that "the working class has nothing to lose but its chains" on its head-they want the workers in Arbitration chains. Nothing important was ever won by the working class through the ballot box or the bosses' courts. The unions need to defy the bosses rules, rip up the court orders and fight to the bitterest struggle. The only "illegal" strike is one that loses! The whole system of Arbitration needs to be smashed! Down with racist protectionism!

Beware Halfpenny's Fake-Left Toadies!

Various pseudo-socialist groups have enlisted as foot soldiers in a populist-front campaign to re-elect the Keating government. Tiny fake-left groups like Paul White's Workers Revolution Group (WRG) or the International Socialist Organisation (ISO), which clutch at Halfpenny and other "left" bureaucrats, who smirk labour fakers like Kevin, who clutches at head, of the Australian imperialist government. For all of its mystical anti-institutionalism, it is all the same chisel. They are trying to take working class power. For the last decade the Spartacist Organisation (SL) has sought to co-opt the union tops to the "independent umpire" of the Arbitration Court. The Spartacist is a Trotskyist group which specialises in piddling "militant" advice. In 1986 they crossed BLF picket lines as the union was being smashed. On the eve of the 1984-85 British miners strike they set up union leader Arthur Scargill, denouncing his correct statement that Polish Solidarnosc was "anti-socialist" -a campaign picked up by the gutter Tory magazine The Spectator. Their major international campaign is to support the U.S. capitalist state's frame-up of leftist union organizer Mark Cur- tens. They denounced the 10 November strike as a "coal fraud"—an open invasion to scab. The SL's relationship to the class line is that of a man in a revolving door.

ALP-Party of Racism, Depression and War

Earlier this year ACTU secretary Kelly wasurette that he couldn't understand why the ALP didn't win the next election with 11 per cent unemployment. Now Keating's "approval rating" is shot up and he figures that he can win the next election as the "lesser evil" to Hewson's Tories. The ALP is the party of racism, depression and war—and from two world imperialist wars to innumerable smaller reactionary wars from the 1930s depression to every other attack on the working class this century. It was the Chifley Labor government which used the army to break the 1949 miners strike. In 1986 the Hawke and Cain Labor governments smashed the BLP. Hawke sits back and lets the workers to clean out the bosses to the pilots' strike in 1989. The ALP's role is to tie the working people to this racist capitalist state.

Down with the rigged two-up game in which heads or tails, Labor or Liberal, the working people lose! The urgent task of the hour is to forge an international Lenni-Trotskyist party based on working class to act as a tribune of the people and lead a revolutionary struggle for workers power, a workers state. The 1917 October Revolution showed the way out of capitalist chaos. What "failed" in the Soviet Union was not communism, but the Stalinist bureaucratic anathesis of proletarian internationalism and the mismanagement of the planned economy. Today we are seeing the true face of the capitalist restoration in the former deformed/ degenerated workers states of eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: unemployment, massive impoverishment, national fraticide and the rise of fascist terror.

A couple of five-year economic plans as part of a collective, planned econo- my, in concert with our proletarian brothers and sisters in the other countries of this region, could easily provide jobs and a future for all. For a communist federation of Southeast Asia!

The Spartacist League/Australia is a section of the International Communist League. We work in the banner of Lenin and Trotsky. As Trotsky wrote in the founding document of the Fourth International, the "anti-imperialist" crisis in human culture is the crisis in the proletarian leadership. The advanced workers united in the Fourth Interna- tional, show their class the way out of the crisis. They offer a program based on international experience in the struggle of the proletariat and of all the oppressed of the world for liberation.

For a communist federation of Southeast Asia! For a Fourth International, world party of socialist revolution!
Two hundred thousand people—overwhelmingly youth—in 31 cities across Italy took to the streets November 9 to mark the anniversary of the Nazis' 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom and to protest the rising tide of racist terror in the country. Capitalist reification of Germany and the collapse of Stalinism throughout East Europe and the former Soviet Union have plunged Italy into deep economic and political turmoil. "Polyaried" is an underatement; the country is bursting at the seams.

Emboldened by stalling electoral support for the fascistic Lombard League headed by Umberto Bossi, fascists have escalated racist violence against Jews and immigrants all over the country. The police have turned a blind eye. In Rome last June, as angry Jewish demonstrators confronted a fascist mob, one cop yelled, "They didn't make enough soap out of the Jews."

Meanwhile, without any leadership—indeed, against their existing reformist leadership—the industrial working class and high school youth have been in full-scale revolt for nearly two months now, shutting down city after city in general strikes against the government's savage austerity program dictated by the Maastricht treaty (ie, German bankers). On October 10, Torino was shut down by workers and students who filled the streets and marched on the town hall chanting, "Here we are with our red banners! Go fuck yourself Umberto Bossi!"

After 50,000 fascists marched unimpeded through the streets of Rome last month, the ancient Jewish ghetto and African quarter were plastered with racist graffiti and yellow Stars of David. In response, rejecting "responsible" appeals to "ignore the Nazis," several hundred Jewish youth and concentration camp survivors, armed with iron bars and chains, carried out a successful lightining raid on the headquarters of the fascist Movimento Politico Occidentale (Western Political Movement) on November 5. One fascist wound up in the hospital and one cop emerged from the fray with a black eye.

The fascist flag was ripped down off the wall and carried back to the Jewish quarter as a war trophy. Death camp survivors, their children and grand-children stayed in the streets until dawn celebrating their victory over the fascists. An Auschwitz survivor was triumphantly hoisted in the air and carried through the neighborhood atop the captured fascist flag. As one youth who participated in the action said, "I was the most beautiful moment of my life. If he has to die, let's hope not for a hundred years, at least he'll go knowing that something has changed" (Corriere della Sera, 7 November).

This dramatic and militant self-defense action electrified anti-racist fighters all over Italy. On November 9, some 25,000 high school students bobbed up and down through the streets of Milano yelling "Jump if you're not a fascist!" and showered the headquarters of Bossi's Lombard League with ball bearings and coins. Sixty thousand anti-fascists poured through the streets of Rome. Young leftists in Palestinian kaffiyeh scarves linked arms with Jewish youth in yarmulkes and slapped the number 174517 on their jackets—the number the Nazis tattooed on Primo Levi in Auschwitz. In tribute to this remarkable man, a noted Italian author, concentration camp survivor and anti-fascist fighter, young lefthand chanted, "Primo Levi taught us! We won't forget the Holocaust!" and "It is not a crime to kill a fascist." Leaders of the Italian student movement are demanding that Primo Levi's books be assigned reading in the public schools.

Our comrades from the Lega Trotzkista di Italia participated in the demonstrations in Rome and Milano, carrying placards reading, "Proletarian Revolution Will Avenge the Holocaust!" "Full Citizenship Rights for Immigrant Workers!" and "Smash Anti-Semitic, Anti-Immigrant Terror!" Youth eagerly snapped up copies of Spartaco, newspaper of the LTF, and picked up our books.

There is militant proletarian opposition to fascism and capitalist rollbacks in Italy today—with no leadership. Jews and immigrants have been left to face the fascists alone, as the reformist parties and trade-union tops have done everything possible to keep their working-class base away from confrontation with the fascists. It is urgently necessary to construct a genuine Bolsheviki party to serve as a tribune of the people and direct these struggles to victory.

Reprinted from Workers Vanguard No 563, 13 November 1992

Free Jailed Fijian Miners!

The following article is reprinted from Class-Struggle Defense Notes, No 18, Fall/Winter 1992-93, journal of the Libertarian Defense Committee.U.S. The Libertarian Defense Committee is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defence organisation which champions causes and causes in the interest of the whole of the working people. This purpose is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League.

... ... ...

For the past 19 months Fijian miners have waged a heroic struggle against the Emperor Gold Mining Company, in the longest strike in Fijian history, miners at Emperor's Vatukoula gold mine are fighting for better wages, safety conditions, living standards and company recognition of their union. They've been met with a series of eviction threats, attacks on their picket lines and constant harassment by the company and cops.

These attacks culminated in a police assault on February 4, when 35 riot squad police using tear gas successful attempted to evict strikers from company housing. This provocation was met by a courageous defence. But six miners, Viliame Rokoroka, Vereniko Batukal, Josua Vuni, Efrenino Caketi, Uatani Seni and Etuwate Matalawa, denied legal and union representation, were brutally beaten into forced confessions. They now languish in jail convicted and sentenced for up to two-and-a-half years on charges of assault, obstruction and damaging a police vehicle. One more miner, charged with murder over the death of a billfold killed during the police assault, was jailed for four months before charges were dropped.

In the Australian neo-colony of Fiji, the Vatuokula gold mine is run with apartheid-like brutality. The mainly ethnic Fijian miners earn a pitiful $1.30 per hour under unsafe work conditions. Along with their families the miners live in a company-owned shantytown without electricity, adequate water or the most basic facilities. As in South Africa, where black miners earn a fraction of white workers' wages, dark-skinned Fijians are treated like dirt. In its Australia home base Western Mining, a major shareholder of the Vatuokula mine, tramples over the rights of Aborigines and wages war on Australian miners' wages and hard-won working conditions.

Like other former British colonies Fiji is a powderkeg of communal-racial division, mainly between indigenous Fijians (Melanesians) and Indians originally imported by the British as indentured labour for the sugar plantations. The Vatuokula miners' struggle has coincided with strikes by predominantly Fijian-Indian sugar workers and women textile workers across Fiji, despite vicious anti-union laws. These struggles need to be linked. Unity in the working class, cutting across the institutionalised anti-Indian chauvinism of the Fijian-dominated government which came to power through the rigged electoral system established by the 1987 CIA-supported coup, is crucial to defeating the government's vicious austerity that targets all the oppressed throughout the Fijian islands.

Having failed to crush the strike through state terror and repression, and fearing a loss of foreign investment, the government of prime minister Rabuka continued on page 7

Australasian Spartacist
Workers State Strangled...

(continued from page 1)

ayles as the rest of society. The upper strata of the military command, on the other hand, were a component of the Soviet bureaucracy. Trotsky explained that the bureaucracy was a bittre, contradi-
tory caste whose role was that of an intermediary between the workers state and hostile imperial encirclement. This contradictory position gener-
ated within the bureau a range of contradictory political impulses: "all shades of political thought are to be
found among the bureaucracy: from
the competence of the "Emergency Committee"
shades of political thought are to be
forcefully demonstrated in the events of
an
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ICL banner outside January 1992 Soviet officers conference in Moscow:
"No to Capitalist Restoration! Yes to Goals of October!"

In the case of the 1956 Hungarian Rev-
olution, the Stalinist apparat reappeared
wholesale and capital in the Soviet Union, the steady pressure of con-
ciliation to imperialism and internal market forces pushed ever-greater sec-
for the Fourth Interna-
tional and was murdered by Stalin in 1937; Butenko was a Soviet diplomat who defected for the Fourth Interna-
tional. Trotsky wrote that the Stalinist bureaucrat, and the conflicting political
apart it inherited, remained even after
the Stalinist bureaucrats of the 1930s exterminated any remnant of the Bol-
shevik "Old Guard." But while resisting
westernization and privileges from pro-
tagorism, the Stalinist bureaucracy was not irrevocably com-
mited to its defense. It could play no independent role in society. Under the
impact of any sharp frontal assault, either from the revolutionary proletariat or the counterrevolution, the bureauc-
anny would shatter. As Trotsky wrote:
"When the proletarian spring into action, the Stalinist apparat will remain suspen-
ded. This apparat, while not of the same
power that the state was of the same
capacity, we cannot把它作为"The Bol-
shevik takes in a layer of younger
proletariat leaders, while the Stalinist bureaucrats put in a layer of younger
officials."

In his 1933 article, Trotsky warned of
the dual character of the Stalinist
apparatus, putting in a layer of younger
proletariat leaders, while the Stalinist bureaucrats put in a layer of younger
officials."

"It is the worst possible variant, a tremendous significance for the
extermination of any remnant of the Bol-
shevik "Old Guard." But while resisting
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"It is the worst possible variant, a tremendous significance for the
Workers Struggle

(continued from page 9)

the Soviet proletariat is the forging of a new, authentically communist vanguard party of the working class. Return to the road of Lenin and Trotsky!

We sharply opposed resurgent anti-Semitism and Great Russian chauvinism and warned that women have the most to lose under capitalism restoration.

Following Yeltsin’s unleashing of the OMON and Moscow militia (police) against protesters in February 1992, we issued an urgent statement: "White Tsar! Boris Wants a New Bloody Sunday." With the threat of widespread hunger posed by draconian price increases on food and other necessities, we raced to white out the program.

"Through their own independent committee, composed of delegates elected by the enterprises, the working people must take control of food supplies and oversee distribution. What is needed once again is the Belarusian model of organizing of today, but organs for struggle composed of deputies elected by and responsible to the workplace and barracks. Formed into powerful nomenklatura—nationalized, egalitarian, deprivatization—by which the workers will be able to sweep away the shady regimes of the capitalist restorationists with a flick of the finger. No new taxes—away with Yeltsin’s perestroika!" (Transitional Program).

Soviet workers who had seen all too clearly the state since the war, the rule of the party-state, and the still multinational proletariat, but be-

Red Army’s International Battalion honours German Spartacists Luxemburg and Liebknecht after their murder, January 1919. Proletarian Internationalism was the cornerstone of the Soviet Union under Lenin and Trotsky, explicitly social-democratic Labor Party (FT) of Boris Kagarlitsky is in bed with a section of the FPNI bureaucracy, and participates in the All-Russian Toliing Assembly, which is heavily populated by Yeltsin’s people and whose chairman Komsomint is vice president of the Sbor.

Every one of the numerous Stalinist and social-democratic parties has fallen into step behind the corporatist option, appealing for privatization through the "work collective" (ie, factory managers). With their backs against the wall, many workers may look to their factory managers taking ownership of industry as a last-ditch defense against unemployment and immiseration.

Soviet workers should entertain no illusions that their livelihoods will be secure under a corporatist regime. Capitalists, whether under Volkskii/Ruskii or Yeltsin/Gaidar or some variant in between, necessarily means the whip of brutal exploitation and widespread unemployment.

State Capitalism:

Anti-Communist Myth

If the destruction of the Soviet Union has placed a final epitaph on the world history of Stalinism, it has also demolished the numerous false "theories" which have long been bandied about. Stalinism is a "state socialist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society. The Stalinist regime, a conception of the late-20th-century "left," which has been more a "state capitalist" society which are not only against the interests of the workers but also against the interests of the bourgeoisie.

The various theories defining the Stalinist bureaucracy as either "counterrevolutionary through and through" or "neither Washington nor Moscow" have been shown to be baseless. The range of options available to the workers has been effectively limited by the Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society.

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For the first couple of years, Gorbatchev’s neo-Bukharinitite reforms had some effect in restoring national economic and social welfare, but then the tide turned. The introduction of enterprise self-management and market-oriented reforms was a step in the right direction, but it was not enough to overcome the problems facing the country. The Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society, has been shown to be baseless. The range of options available to the workers has been effectively limited by the Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society.

Out of the ashes of the old order, a new, authentically communist vanguard party of the working class is taking shape. The way is open for the working people to take control of food supplies and oversee distribution. What is needed once again is the Belarusian model of organizing of today, but organs for struggle composed of deputies elected by and responsible to the workplace and barracks. Formed into powerful nomenklatura—nationalized, egalitarian, deprivatization—by which the workers will be able to sweep away the shady regimes of the capitalist restorationists with a flick of the finger. No new taxes—away with Yeltsin’s perestroika!" (Transitional Program).

Soviet workers who had seen all too clearly the state since the war, the rule of the party-state, and the still multinational proletariat, but be-


camp" (neither Washington nor Moscow), today the "state capitalist" option is becoming more attractive. The identification with imperialist anti-communism is evident. The "socialist" logic is absurd. Here we have supposedly just witnessed the remarkable spectacle of an entire "capitalist" class which is completely out of touch with the masses because it is seeking to defend its property. And the millions upon millions of workers in East Europe and the ex-URSR who are now being dragged down by immiseration, unemployment and despair apparently aren’t about to buy the notion that they are just going from one brand of capitalism to another, much less hail it.

"Third campists" of the second mobilization, like the political bandits of David North’s "International团委" (TROIKA), who are supposed to be "friends" with the "state capitalist" option, have been shown to be baseless. The range of options available to the workers has been effectively limited by the Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society.

In the spring of 1990, the Yeltsin regime’s call for "economic reform" was met with a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society. The range of options available to the workers has been effectively limited by the Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society.

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Gorbachev’s reforms, like the so-called "glasnost" reforms, have largely been a sham. The range of options available to the workers has been effectively limited by the Yeltsin regime, which has been a "state capitalist" society in which the working people and managers of the state-owned enterprises are for the most part only indirectly connected to the productive forces of society.

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Whatever their quibbling differences, support for Yeltsin counterrevolution brought together all of these revisionists, from Clift to North to Mandel—as well as the Militant group in Britain (formerly led by Ted Grant), associated with Sergei Tretiaev (Workers Democracy) in Russia. The bottom line for all of these outfits has been capitulation to the post-Soviet anti-Sovietism, just as a decade ago they were all united in their cheering for counterrevolutionary Solidarność in Poland and their denunciations of the Red Army intervention into Afghanistan.

In contrast, the Spartacist tendency proclaimed "Hail Red Army in Afghanistan!" and declared "Stop Solidarność Counterrevolution!" in Poland. In response to Gorbachev's 1989 pullout from Afghanistan, we were all united in our cheering for the Soviet Union. But the sellout of the DDR directly prepared the destruction of the united socialist states and the revival of capitalism around them. Imperialist rivalries have made the world a far more dangerous place. The workers of Russia, the Ukraine and the other former Soviet republics still have time to regroup and strike back before anything approaching a viable system of national socialism evolves, and vie for power. The ICW, in its effort at a united front, has not been able to bring its weight to bear against imperialism anywhere. The decision to leave Afghanistan was the first and most difficult step.
Nazi Murder Attacks in Germany

BERLIN, November 23—The continuing wave of terror by bands of fascist killers, kindled by the capitalist reunification of Germany, reached a frenzy last weekend with the brutal murder of five people. In response there have been counterattacks by militant leftists and spontaneous anti-fascist demonstrations, including the hesitant beginnings of action by the trade-union movement. The Spartakist Workers Party is fighting for worker-immigrant solidarity to crush the fascist terrorists.

On Friday night, November 20, 27-year-old Silvio Meier was knifed to death by a crowd of Nazis in Berlin. His friends and some locals went to a disco when they came across the fascists at an East Berlin subway stop. When the squatters went after the Nazi punks, they were stabbed amid shouts of “Leftist pigs!” Silvio died from wounds to the lungs, while his two friends were taken to the hospital with severe injuries.

One of the attackers wore a patch proclaiming “I’m Proud to Be a German.” As Si6ivo’s friends wrote of this fascist slogan the next day in a leaflet titled “Rage and Mourning”: “This stands for the pogroms in Rostock, Mannheim and elsewhere, for the murders of Nguyen Van Tu in Marzahn, of Antonio Amadeu in Eberswalde, of Thorsten Lamprecht in Magdeburg, of Maf Eksi in Rudolstadt, of almost 30 people since 1990.”

Then, on Sunday night, Nazis in the western town of MoIIn, in the state of Schleswig-Holstein near Hamburg, staged an arson attack on two houses, murdering a family of immigrants: 51-year-old Bahoy Arslan, her 10-year-old grandchild Ye1iz Arslan and her 14-year-old niece Ata1 Yilmaz. Minutes after firebombs were thrown, fascists called the police, claiming credit and crying, “Horror!” The Turkish family had been living and working in Germany for six years. Nine others were wounded in this murderous attack on the immigrants’ houses.

It also became known last weekend that on the previous week, there had called some skinheads in a pub “Nazis swine,” was kicked to a pulp by the fascists with their metal boots, drenched with schnapps and then left alive. The innkeeper whipped up the attack, saying the man was a Jew, and then helped to hide the body, which was later dumped in the Netherlands.

Also this weekend, a former official of the Italian Communist Party who has been working in Germany for 27 years was attacked in his apartment by Nazis.

In the space of two days, rightists fired guns into a squatters community in Rathenow, firedbomb a refugee home in Schenken, and threw a hand grenade into a home for refugee children in Hamburg. In Rostock, scene of the anti-Roma (Gypsy) pogrom last August, a dozen skinheads roughed through the city smashing cars and terrorizing passers-by. Today another Turk was reportedly knifed.

At the same time, in various towns of the ex-DDR (East Germany), left-wing youth have responded by going after the fascists. In Brandenburg, there was a street fight between skinheads and leftists, leaving one injured on each side. In Rudolstadt, there took a bat to one of the rightist scum. And in Erfurt, a group of two dozen leftist radicals broke up a neo-Nazi bar.

The bourgeois press is comparing these clashes between leftists and rightist thugs with the latter days of the Weimar Republic. The comparison is greatly overstated, and its purpose is to strengthen the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state. Thus after months of pointedly ignoring rightist attacks, the Verfassungsschutz (Office for the Protection of the Constitution) suddenly intervened in the investigation of the MoIIn attack.

Meanwhile, federal chancellor Kohl has threatened to declare a “state emergency” in order to “modify” (eliminate) the constitutional right to asylum, thus handing the Nazis a victory in their “foreigners out” drive. And federal interior minister Seiten is calling for limitations on the right to demonstrate.

Some Social Democratic (SPD) spokesmen and the ex-Stalinist PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism) are calling for banning right-wing “extremist” organizations. But as the Marxist analysis of the situation explains, and historical experience shows, such measures will inevitably be used mainly against the left.

The situation cries out for mass united-front working-class mobilization, to bring out the social power of workers and immigrants against the Nazis and to defend refugees. This is the program Leon Trotsky repeatedly called for in the early 1930s, as the Social Democrats and Stalinists let Hitler march to power unhindered.

As the murder of Silvio Meier became known, there was a spontaneous march of several hundred protesters on Saturday evening. On Sunday, 5,000 marched, mostly semi-anarchist Autonome and squatters, to denounce the Nazi murder. The SpAD marched under a red banner calling to “Stop the Nazis with Workers United-Front Action! Full Citizenship Rights for Immigrant Workers and Their Families!” Spartakist signs recalled how the SPD former mayor of Berlin, Monper, had unleashed the federal border police against East Berlin squatters in November 1990.

During the demonstration, Autonome repeatedly physically attacked the Spartakist contingent and attempted to destroy SPD and Autonome banners, because they consider workers to be just as reactionary as the fascists. However, the Spartakists stood their ground, and a number of immigrants and groups helped in the successful defense of the SpAD contingents. The Spartakists also defended a small group of TKP-ML Turkish Maoists who were attacked.

“Down with anti-communist censorship!” the SpAD chanted.

The blind anti-working-class sect-oralism of the Autonome is downright suicidal. The Nazis are the reserve troops of the Fourth Reich, who have flourished on the nationalist breeding ground of capitalist rationalization. They cannot be fought with impotent declarations of “rage” any more than with with anti-immigrant framings that are encouraged by racist politicians concerned about “the image of Germany abroad.” The fascist scum won’t be defeated by random brawls, and certainly not by anti-communist assaults.

In recent weeks, tens of thousands of youth have gone into the streets to protest not only against Nazi attacks but also against the parliamentary debate over gutting the right to asylum, including the vile role of the SPD in the racist anti-immigrant Popular Front (see “Germany: Mass Outrage Over Fascist continued on page 11

Trotskists Say: “Freedom for Erich Honecker!”

The anti-Communist show trial of Erich Honecker and other leaders of the former DDR opened in Berlin November 12. Sections of the International Communist League protested the witchhunt, in Paris (left) November 7, anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, and outside courtroom in Berlin (right). The Trotskyists declared: “Defending the DDR Was Not a Crime, Selling It Out Was,” and “Stalinism Is dead, Communist Lives.”