Afghanistan: Imperialists Escalate Occupation
All U.S., NATO and Australian Troops Out Now!

In December the Rudd Labor government fully backed the U.S. Obama regime’s announcement of a further escalation of the imperialist occupation of Afghanistan. Speaking from Washington, Rudd declared: “Australia takes its alliance with the United States very seriously. That’s why we have been with America for a long time in Afghanistan and why we will be with America for the long haul” (www.sbc.net.au, 1 December 2009).

With 1,550 Australian troops deployed in Uruzgan province Australia has the largest non-NATO troop presence in Afghanistan. In line with the mobilisation of an additional 30,000 U.S. and 20,000 NATO troops, the Australian government has promised additional federal police. Needless to say, over the years the Australian troops have been up to their necks in the bloody slaughter that has taken place in Afghanistan since the occupation began in 2001. The recent atrocity in which a U.S. helicopter fired on and killed 27 civilians in central Afghanistan is but the latest in an endless string of deadly attacks against civilians. In February 2009, five Afghan children were slaughtered in an attack involving Australian troops.

Like the Obama regime, the Rudd government has waged war in Afghanistan under the rubric of the “war on terror.” Serving as a pretext for imperialist depredations abroad and increased state repression at home, the Rudd government’s draconian “anti-terror” campaign has demonised the Muslim minority and whipped up xenophobia and nationalism. It serves to divide the working class.

Haiti Earthquake Horror: Imperialism, Racism and Starvation

The article below is reprinted from Workers Vanguard (No. 951, 29 January 2010), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S.

JANUARY 25—Any country’s measure of the poverty inflicted upon it by the racist imperialist overlords. Upwards of 200,000 are believed to be dead and many more die every day from lack of food and clean water and untreated infections. Up to three million people are rendered homeless, trying to survive on the streets amid the rubble. Doctors and nurses who flew in to aid the relief effort are performing operations in makeshift open-air “hospitals,” often without anesthetic or even material to sterilise their equipment. The ramshackle state administration, such as it was, has collapsed, with the government now operating out of a police outpost at the airport.

The poorest country in the hemisphere, Haiti was totally exposed to the earthquake’s impact. Even before the earthquake struck, the unemployment rate was as high as 80 percent, more than half the population lived on less than one dollar a day and nearly one out of every two Haitians had no regular access to drinking water. With little in the way of an indigenous working class, many Haitians rely on remittances from Haitian workers in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere, which amount to nearly a quarter of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Many people lived in tin shacks that collapsed when the quake hit, and many of the concrete buildings were constructed so shoddily that they simply “pancaked.”

Given the impoverishment and lack of infrastructure, the Haitian population now finds itself totally reliant on international aid efforts. Thousands of medical and search-and-rescue volunteers from many countries rushed to Haiti to provide assistance. At the same time, the United Nations augmented its 9,000-strong occupation force with an additional 3,500 soldiers, while the Obama administration is rushing in 10,000 troops as well as military aircraft and a flotilla of naval vessels. While reformist “socialists” like the International Socialist Organization (ISO) and Workers World Party (WWP) call for the U.S. to provide aid without the exercise of American military might, we have no such illusions. Indeed, American forces in Haiti have made “security” a higher priority than providing aid. While many planes carrying aid have landed at the Port-au-Prince airport, which is now controlled by U.S. forces, others were criminally diverted as the U.S. gave landng priority to planes carrying military personnel.

Against the backdrop of the brutal occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the escalating air strikes in Pakistan, the Haiti “relief effort” provides the Obama administration with a means to refurbish the “humanitarian” image of U.S. imperialism. As we have often pointed out, after eight years of the oddly demented regime of George W. Bush, which reviled in imperialist arrogance and barbarity, Obama is well suited to help provide a facelift for U.S. imperialism’s tarnished image around the world. Yet whenever the Commander-in-Chief is a Democrat or Republican, U.S. imperialism remains the most bloody and rapacious imperialist power on the face of the planet. Obama’s “humanitarian” pretensions in Haiti are but a thin veneer on racist oppression and imperialist subjugation.

One of the central aims of the U.S. imperialist rulers is to prevent Haitians from fleeing the island. Thus, the U.S. quickly launched a full-scale naval blockade to prevent a seaborne exodus of refugees seeking sanctuary in the U.S. An American Air Force plane flies daily over Haiti broadcasting a Creole-language message: “If you leave Haiti you will be shot.”
On Australian Imperialism and Labor Reformism

Dear Comrades,

I appreciated your recent article “Recession Australia: Unemployment, Racism, Militarism” (ASp No. 205, Winter 2009) in particular for the prominence given to China, as well as the polemic against protectionism. On two points I think it could have been better.

First, the article declares that the Laborite trade-union bureaucracy “is historically based on a thin layer of privileged workers who are bought off by crumbs obtained from the profits from Australian imperialist exploitation abroad.” I believe that this statement is not right. The Australian bourgeoisie has never lacked the appetite or ruthlessness for such imperialism capacity; but for most of its history it has lacked the opportunity. I don’t think that the Australian capitalists significantly expanded their direct investment in and exploitation of other countries until relatively late in the twentieth century. Yet there was a trade-union bureaucracy, and reformist labor party, long before.

Instead, the Australian labor aristocracy, and the union bureaucracy based on it, developed on the basis of campaigning successfully to drive out and keep out non-white workers, and for protectionist barriers and state subsidies to foster industrial development by the Australian bourgeoisie in Australia. Thus, “White Australia” and protectionism were, and remain, two of the three essential underpinnings of Australian labor reformism and the Australian Labor Party (ALP). The third leg was integration into the capitalist state and subordination of the workers to it. Together these compose the virulent Laborite expression of Australian nationalism which has always crippled the Australian workers, tying them to their class enemies and setting them against their working-class comrades of other nations and ethnicities.

For its first four decades or so, Australia was a settler-colonial outpost. Later, the ruling class accumulated wealth from the export of agricultural products and minerals, overwhelmingly back to England. In this way, they received indirectly the benefit of participating in the British Empire’s colonial loot and dominant imperialist position.

As a small European enclave scattered thinly across a whole continent in the midst of Asia, capitalist Australia required anything like the capacity to compete with the big powers (England, France, Germany, the U.S., the Dutch, and later Japan) in the division of the spoils in Asia and the Pacific. Hence its perennial role as a (very) junior partner of the big Anglo-Saxon plunderers.

To be sure, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the Colonial Sugar Refining company (now CSR Limited) monopolized Fijian sugar production using indentured workers from South Asia, and Australia got its very own colony, Papua New Guinea, as a result of World War I. However, I don’t think the Fijian operation came to much compared to Australia’s own extractive and agricultural industries. And Papua New Guinea did not develop prospects for major profits until the 1960s or so, when mining opened up. Before then, Australia put in little infrastructure and ran a protectionist racist, paternalistic colonial regime. (It might have been worth mentioning Papua New Guinea, a now formally “inducing the Kingdom-ent” classic neo-colony—where the head of state is still the queen of England—as an example of the victims of Australian jackal imperialism.)

Australian manufacturing developed significantly to supply the home market when British imports were hit by World War I, bringing into being a modern urban proletariat. After World War II the ruling class for the most part did not export capital to super-exploit labor elsewhere. Faced with the incoming of immigrants recruited from anywhere not black or Asian, with a preference for the whitest-first the British Isles and the Pacific. Hence its perennial role as a (very) junior partner of the big Anglo-Saxon plunderers.

Canada was a settler-colonial outpost in the colonial Indian Empire’s colonial loot and dominant imperialist position. The Australian capitalists used to supply the home market when British imports were hit by World War I, bringing into being a modern urban proletariat. After World War II the ruling class for the most part did not export capital to super-exploit labor elsewhere. Faced with the incoming of immigrants recruited from anywhere not black or Asian, with a preference for the whitest-first the British Isles and the Pacific. Hence its perennial role as a (very) junior partner of the big Anglo-Saxon plunderers.

The existence and power of the Soviet Union was a precondition for the creation of the People’s Republic of China, a deformed workers state qualitatively similar to the product of the degeneration of the October Revolution. The Stalinist-ruled USSR provided not only a model for the Maoist CCP, but also a critical model of military protection. It was the Soviet bomb that ultimately prevented the U.S. from implementing MacArthur’s plans for nuclear war against China during the Korean War.

When the decline of British imperialism suddenly confronted Australia’s rulers with the need for a new protector, the Australian bourgeoisie had to embrace the strategic concerns of their new sponsor as they had the Empire’s. And the Australian bourgeoisie went in boats and all. Menzies’ Cold War witchhunt largely failed to purge the labor movement of reds. But the ALP suffered a split by an anti-Communist operation.

Later, when Queens Counsel Gough Whitlam became ALP prime minister, he sought to modernize Menzies-era trogloodyte Australian imperialism, including more “independent” moves to engage in Asia. This meant openings toward China, which not accidentally coincided with the Nixon-Mao counterrevolutionary anti-Soviet alliance. But Washington and the CIA were not satisfied, blinded by the ALP’s opposition to the war in Vietnam (after all, this was just the Australian version of the growing desire by key sections of the U.S. ruling classes to cut their losses there), and no doubt did what they could to facilitate Whitlam’s ouster. Later Labor continued on page 10.

Over 60,000 Pacific Islanders, many abducted, were used as indentured labour on Queensland cane fields. Laborite union bureaucracy campaigned to drive out non-“white” workers. Adoption of “White Australia” policy in 1901 by federal parliament led to final forced expulsion of all but a few.
Anti-Communist Opportunityists Fall Out

DSP Endgame; RSP Same Old Game

In January the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP), arguably Australia's most widely known left reformist organisation, “dissolved” into Socialist Alliance (SA), a “broad left” electoral front set up at the DSP’s initiative in 2001. At its liquidation congress, lider maximo Peter Boyle denounced the “sectarian” idea of a single party based on a “correct” program in favour of SA's sub-reformist and green-nationalist mish-mash of policies for a reformed Australian capitalism. Consisting of not much more than itself and a handful of lower-level union bureaucrats and Aboriginal leaders, competing opportunist appetites will surely blow this amorphous lash-up apart. Whatever happens the slippery Boyle, now SA leader, will no doubt keep control of the DSP’s financial assets.

In liquidating into SA, the DSP has initiated reformist opponents of revolutionary Marxism across the world who have imbibed in the capitalist myth of the “death of communism” following capitalist counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and dissolved into larger forces to their right, making up the peace with the capital­ist “new world reality” blatant. Foremost amongst these, the French “Trotskyist” Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire put the final touches on a long process of reconciliation with the French bourgeois right when it dissolved into its New Socialist Party (RSP). The DSP’s “correct” program, as always was directed at SA, in the guise of “Death of Communism” Leftists in New Guinea: "Workers Vanguard No. 94, 10 April 2009."

The only group to lament the liquidation of the DSP is the minusained Revolution­ist Socialist Party (RSP). The RSP was formed in 2008 by DSPPers, including founding cadre John Percy, who opposed continuing with the former DSPSA project and were expelled from the DSP after a sordid clef fight. That the RSP declares itself always proudly on the “revolutionary tradition” of the DSP underscores that it is neither “revolutionary” nor “socialist.”

Anti-Soviet Pimps for Racist Australian Imperialism

The DSP was always an opportunist outfit of the most unbridled variety, lacking even the most rudimentary loyalty to the cause of the working class. Standing “for the universal application of the principle of [classless, i.e., bourgeois] democr­acy,” the DSP’s maximum demand was that “the main assets of society must be publicly owned and democratically managed” (Resist! 28 August 1998). This is a call for “reforming” capitalism while not touching a hair on the head of the capital­ist state. Consisting at its core of the mili­tary, cops, courts and prisons, this state exists to defend the exploitative capitalist class against the workers and oppressed.

A defining feature of the DSP was its social-democratic hostility to those coun­tries where capitalism has been overthrown. Throughout the Cold War, its predecessor, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), stood with the Hawke/Keating Labor governments, the reac­tionary National Civic Council and all manner of rigger scum, against the Soviet Union and Eastern European deformed workers states. This included cheering on the CIA-backed, Catholic reactionary Polish Solidarność that spearheaded capital­ist counterrevolution in Eastern Europe. In the service of promoting counterrevo­lution in Yugoslavia, they also embraced the Croatian Movement for Statehood (HDP) who identified with the fascist Ustashas, bloody butchers of hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Gypsies and Croats in World War II.

The SWP’s name change to “Democratic Socialist Party” in 1989 perfectly cap­tured this outfit’s embrace of unfolding “democratic” counterrevolution across Eastern Europe. When Boris Yeltsin, hand-in-hand with U.S. imperialism, carried out his counter coup in Moscow in 1991, the DSP joined with much of the left to cheer for capitalist counterrevolution in the Soviet Union, an outcome that wrought devastation on the working masses. DSP Australian imperialism’s drive for capital­ist counterrevolution against the Chinese deformed workers state. They champion every imperialist cause from Taiwanese “independence” to pro-imperialist dissi­dents like Han Dongfang, to “Free Tibet.” In April 2008, following counterrevolu­tionary riots in Tibet, the DSPSA scandalously joined with xenic anti-commu­nists in a pro-Dalai Lama, anti-China demonstration in Canberra.

Against the pro-capitalist ALP trade-union bureaucracy and their appendages on the left, we Trotskyists fought for the unconditional military defence of the Soviet Union and the deformed workers states of Eastern Europe against imperialist attack and internal capitalist counter­revolution, while fighting for proletarian political revolution to oust the venal nationalist Stalinist bureaucracies. Today we fight for this program in defence of the remaining deformed workers states of China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam.

The DSP’s long history of supporting capitalist counterrevolutionary movements is of a piece with promoting the “democratic” “White Australia” imperialist rulers as potential friends of the oppressed. From Cambodia to Somalia to West Papua, the DSP backed Australian imperialist mili­tary interventions under the guise of “humanitarian” assistance. In 1999, the same year it declared China had become capitalist (in 1992!), the DSP went pummelling for Australian imperialism plundered new depths. Along with the bulk of the reformist left, the DSP unabashed­ly joined with the Laborite union tops in mobilising thousands on the streets for the Australian military occupation of East Timor. These chauvinist marches, which featured RSL “diggers” and Indonesian national­ists, were in some cases uncritical cheerleaders for the fake-socialist, and now defunct, Socialist Party of Labor in the Philippines. Today, Boyle’s DSPSA maintains an association with Melbourne’s new outfit, Masses Power Party, which coopers with shadowy oppo­sition groups inside the blood-drenched Filipinos bourgeois armies.

Under pressure of anti-Soviet Cold War II, and clearing the way to its unrestrained pursuit of alien class forces, in 1984 the then-DSP dumped the “Trotskyist” label (having never in fact been Trotskyists) and denounced Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution—a program confirmed by the 1917 Russian Revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky's Bolshevik Party. (For more on permanent revolution see In Defence of the DSP’s initiative in New Socialist Party No. 167, Autumn 1999.) The DSP also withdrew the declaration that the ALP was a bourgeois workers party—a stance it had propounded in a consistent, wrecking ship, outlook and program but based on the traditions. In Percy’s own words: “Once we had broken with Trotskyism, and once we had corrected our analysis of... continued on page 5
class and oppressed while regimenting the population into accepting gross violations of civil rights. This ultimately is in the service of suppressing class and social struggles against the exploitative capitalist system of racism, unemployment and war. The government’s recent Counter-Terrorism White Paper once again proposed that the “anti-terror” laws be expanded.

Committing no terrorist act or even laying a finger on anyone, the writing of anti-capitalist poetry,arranting arrest in Sydney and Melbourne in 2005 have been sentenced to draco judicial terms of up to 28 years for expressing opinions, for alleged thought crimes. Meanwhile five men ensnared in raids in Melbourne last August remain buried alive in Guantánamo Bay-like conditions at Barwon prison and may not face trial for years! We say it is in the direct immediate interests of the organ- ized working class to fight the class struggle. Charges. From Melbourne, to Sydney, to Iraq and Afghanistan: Free all the detainees now! Down with racist raids in Melbourne last August remain for protests during Obama’s expected visit. In Australia, Obama is loyally serving the interests of the ruling class, which wanted a facelift for U.S. imperialism after 9/11. As an internation­ally despised, wacky Bush regime. It was so-called “socialists” who betrayed the defense of the legions of Pakistan’s build­ing liberal “Anybody but Bush” antiracial coalitions and then hailing the election of Obama as a “step forward.” If the Workers World Party (WWP) proclaimed Obama to be a “war hero” for the black masses and all the oppressed” (Workers World, 20 November 2008), while the International Socialist Organization (ISO) enthused in Socialist Worker (21 January 2009): “Obama’s victory convinced large numbers of people of some basic sentiments at the heart of the great struggles of the past—that something different is possible. The liberal left say the wars, exploitation and poverty that most of his support­ist system can be stopped by exerting pres­ure on the rulers to change course— or they’re fools. The reformists have ditched their pom-poms, but fight to build up the war drive to destroy the Soviet degener­acy—paid for by the economic recession that has thrown millions out of their jobs and homes. The revolutionary Marxists and Socialists point is proletarian class opposition to the U.S. rulers and the capitalist-imperialist system as a whole. Insofar as the Pakistanis on the ground in Iran and Afghanistan aim their blows against the imperialist occupiers, we call for their military defense despite our political opposition to Islamic fundamentalism and bourgeois national­ists. The Special Operations Command plans “targeted assassinations of suspected Taliban and Al Qaeda operatives, “snatch and grab” of high-value targets and other various forms of attack.” According to the report, “We fight to break workers from the poli­cies of Labor as part of the struggle to build a revolutionary workers party. The reformists have been ensnared for years in the Sydney “Stop the War” Coali­tion which channels opposition to the Afghanistan occupation into alliances with representatives of the capitalist class such as the Greens. SALT’s leaders who were then in the International Socialists, sided with the imperialist-backed Islamic fundamentalist Afghan mujahedin women­haters against the Soviet invasion in 1979, they now lecture its readers to “remain the Taliban” and “resist the occupation.” As the Greens Leader Bob Brown yet again made this clear, “Operation Enduring Freedom” (“Mis­limation”) to the troop deployment in Af­ghanistan was that the troops ought to be “retained for use within our region.” Making his loyalty to the Australian imperialist­ military crystal clear Brown continued, “We…support Australian defence force personnel in Afghanistan or wherever else they may be deployed by the government of the day” (Greens Media

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AUSTRALIAN SPARTACIST
women who were subjected to the bride price and burqa and terrorized for seeking an education. No less enthusiastic was the ISOF, which went on to hail the revolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The RCP concocted and still claims a mythical “third force”—unnamed “revolutionary Militants” (Revolution online, 13 December 2009). But there were two sides in the civil war in Afghanistan: the U.S.-backed Afghan Army and the Islamic reactionaries, whose rebellion against the PDPA regime threatened the US intervention. The Afghan Army took a clear side, proclaiming: “Hail Red Army!” Extend social gains of October Revolution to all peoples! We denounced Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev’s withdrawal of troops in 1988—9 and the capitulating imperialism that paved the way for the final undoing of the Soviet workers state itself. For the RCP and Maoists elsewhere, it was the Soviet Union that was the “main enemy,” as Mao Zedong earlier declared when the

Chinese Stalinist bureaucracy forged its anti-Soviet alliance with U.S. imperialism. (Begun by the RCP’s revered Mao, this was completed by Deng Xiaoping, reviled by the RCP as a “capitalist roadster.”) The ISOF social democrats and RCP Maoists contributed what they could to the destruction of the USSR and the restoration of capitalism there. This was a world-historic defeat for the proletariat and the oppressed, internationally, including by renaming what was the main counterweight to the bloody ambitions of U.S. imperialism. The capitalist-supremacist system will continue to wrack havoc and death until it is overthrown through a series of workers revolutions. As opposed to the reformists who lull the workers and oppressed with the promise of capitalism reformed, we Trotskyists call for a fusion between the PRD and the Islamic Star Reformation Party, which supported the incumbent Indonesian government.

The RCP cynically attacks the DSP for covering for the PRD-Papua’s orientation towards giving electoral support to multi-millionaire ex-Kopassus leader Prabowo in the last elections. What you don’t hear is that DSP cadre (then in the DSP) skillfully maneuvered into collaboration, giving support to bourgeois PDI leader and Javanese-chauvinist Megawati Sukarnoputri in the last elections.

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Cuban volunteer medical team treats earthquake victims in Port-au-Prince, 16 January.

Anguish over small child being removed from rubble.

For liberals disappointed with the Obama administration’s policies in Afghanistan and Iraq, the earthquake in Haiti was seen as an opportunity for the U.S. to show a benign face. This was echoed by liberals, such as the ISO -- volunteers, as an opportunity for the reformist ISO and WWP.

The operation and the subsequent imposition of forced labor provoked a national uprising by cacos (peasant bands) beginning in 1916, which lasted five years before being drowned in blood. As described by Mumia Abu-Jamal, America’s foremost class warrior, in a 1994 column (“American Hated of Haiti”), an astonishing statement: “When the people rebelled against this involuntary servitude in the Cacos Insurrection, the U.S. Marines responded by ruthless repression, that left an estimated 13,000 peasant casualties. “One U.S. Marine officer, Colonel Littleton W.T. Waller (Virginia) wrote of his

powers used gunboat diplomacy and the threat of military intervention to extort debt repayment. By the end of the 19th century, 80 percent of Haiti’s national budget was going to pay off its former exploiters, and the country remains a hideously impoverished debtor nation today.

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bleeding the country dry of whatever resources were left. Among these brutal dictators was the infamous "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who organized the Tonton Macoutes thugs and killed 50,000 opponents. His demonetized "Beau was turned forced to flee to France amid a mass upheaval in 1986. One report estimated that "Baby Doc" stole the equivalent of up to 4.5 percent of the Haitian GDP for every year he was in power. As Graham Greene put it in his novel "The Comedians," the U.S. was responsible for setting up "the nightmare republic." Americans can read the novel and decide for themselves if it was a nightmare.

The massive discontent that drove "Baby Doc" Duvalier out of power ultimately led to the election of radical Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide in December 1990. Virtually the entire left internationally gave political support. WWP hailed Aristide for supposedly promising to introduce such things as "economic justice," "honest" government and "broad participation of the people." (Workers World, 27 December 1990). The WWP article quoted from a solidarity message they sent to Aristide hailing his "great courage in bringing the flood of the mass struggle into the election campaign." Likewise, the ISO celebrated Aristide's election, claiming that he was "falsely aware that for democracy to survive in Haiti, the whole system had to be restructured." (Socialist Worker, November 1991).

In contrast, we warned: "Aristide will either play the role of groveling instrument of the Haitian bourgeoisie and the U.S. imperialist overlords or he will be swept away in a reactionary crackdown aimed at decisively disciplining the pitilessly oppressed population" ("Haiti: Election Avalanche for Radical Priest," WWP No. 517, 4 January 1991). Both proved to be true.

Initially, Aristide inked the U.S. rulers by resisting their economic diktas and establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba. This was one of the few benefits Aristide got from the Aristide regime since it meant that Cuban doctors and nurses began working in Haiti. Aristide's military was toppled in 1991. In 1994, following a starvation embargo against Haiti, President Clinton re-installed Aristide at the point of bayonets, with Marines occupying the country in a military intervention dubbed "Operation Uphold Democracy." Aristide supported both the embargo and the invasion. He proved his reliability to his U.S. overseers by agreeing in advance of his 1994 return to power to a drastic austerity program, privatization of state-owned industry, mass layoffs in the public sector and the virtual abolition of import tariffs. The latter induced the collapse of the indigenous economy as the market was flooded with, for example, American rice at prices cheaper than the Haitian-grown product. Having dissolved the army (a scatter of opposition to his regime) in 1995, Aristide propped up his rule with a brutal police force and gang terror.

Again in 2004, as Haiti was being swept by armed revolts (some with the support of the U.S.), the imperialist system, which imposes its colonial and semicolonial subjects, must be swept away through international proletarian revolution. Toward that end, Haitian workers in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere will serve as a vital bridge linking the struggle for national and social emancipation in Haiti with the poor and working people of Haiti." (emphasis in original). By the IG's reasoning, the Cuban government -- but not the U.S. -- must be condemned for opening its airspace to American military planes after the earthquake. The IG is cynically trying to paint the U.S. military occupation of Haiti as the only force on the ground with the capacity -- e.g., trucks, planes, ships -- to organize the transport of what food, water, medical and other supplies are getting to Haiti's population. And they're doing it in the typical pigish U.S. imperialism manner.

We have always opposed U.S. and UN occupations in Haiti and everywhere -- and it may become necessary to call for U.S./UN out of Haiti in the near future -- but we are not going to call for an end to such aid as the desperate Haitian masses can get their hands on. As Bolshievik leader Leon Trotsky explained in his 1938 article "Learn to Think: A Friendly Suggestion to Certain Ultra-Leffists": "An irreconcilable attitude against bourgeois militarism does not signify at all that the proletariat in all cases enters into a struggle against its own 'national' army. At least the workers would not interfere with soldiers who are exterminating a fire or rescuing drowning people during a flood; on the contrary, they would help side by side with the soldiers andFraternity with them.

"In ninety cases out of a hundred the workers actually place a minus sign where the bourgeoisie places a plus sign. In ten cases however they are forced..."
unparalleled in its barbarity. The six million Jews, as well as gays and transsexual women were also murdered. On 30 October 2009 reports that the North West TUC (Trades Union Congress) urged people to stop supporting the fascist EDL. The SWP leadership has decided not to debate Griffin, at least for now. When the EDL began mobilising in major city centres in the summer of 2009, UAF was lukewarm about mobilising any kind of counter-demonstration against the EDL’s UAF website (23 September 2009) called on the home secretary, local councils and police to ban the 10 October demonstration in Manchester. According to Permanent Revolution’s Web site (permanentrotation.org) that the Fascists won this time if they are again able to cast doubt on the national flag and its communities. Fascism is not a “fetish” out of not debating the fascists. Meanwhile, according to the SWP’s Pre- convention report on the British Left: “A discussion has been taking place in the party about our stance on No Platform for the BNP. There are concerns about denying the fascists a platform in not do it, there have been demonstrations, gatherings or meetings within Unite Against Fascism to debate whether or not to go ahead with the EDL’s action against the BNP leadership in the media.

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Defend Simon Singh! Defend Scientific Medicine!

The following statement was issued on 14 December by the Spartacist League/Britain, section of the International Communist League (ICL). It was distributed by campaigners in Britain, as part of an ICL campaign that evening at a talk by Simon Singh titled “Science and the Battle for Free Speech” in London. This statement was reprinted here from Workers Vanguard (No. 949, 1 January 2010), newspaper of the Spartacist League/Britain.

We Marxists defend Simon Singh, the renowned science writer, against the outrageous legal action by the British Chiropractic Association (BCA). At issue is an April 2008 article by Singh, titled “Beware the Spinal Trap” published in the Guardian which challenged a statement by the BCA that chiropractic could help treat a number of childhood ailments including colic, ear infections and asthma. Singh said “there is not a jot of evidence” for this claim and asserted that the BCA promotes bogus treatments.” Libel suits against scientists and science journalists are becoming increasingly common. In 2008, the Guardian and journalist Ben Goldacre, author of the book Bad Science, fought a libel case, which was dropped when Matthias Rath who published advertise­ments in South Africa denouncing AIDS drugs on the grounds of substandard but his own supplements. Although Rath was forced to drop the case, the Guardian only recovered its costs of whopping £500,000 legal fees it incurred.

In the reactionary political climate of today's post-Soviet world, we Marxists find ourselves defending the basic principles of materialism, secularism and the rational spirit of the Enlightenment. Against this ideological landscape, snake-oil treatments, com­monly known as “alternative therapies,” are growing in popularity and many are even being funded by the state. The British government spent £20 million of taxpayers' money on the refurbishment of the Royal London Homeopathic “Hospital,” while accident and emergency units are being closed down.

Science-based medicine and quack therapies are irreconcilable. While some popular treatments may be relatively harmless and may sometimes have a placebo effect, more often they are dangerous both to the individual patient and to all patients treated from needed medical treatment. This is borne out in the book Singh co-authored with Edward Ernst titled Trick or Treatment? Alternative Medicine on Trial (Corgi Books, 2008) an authoritative study of acupuncture, homeopathy and herbal medicine. The authors concluded that “In fact, not only are such treatments unproven, over and over again we have seen that alternative medicine is also potentially dangerous.” Regarding chiropractic therapy, they said it “might offer some marginal bene­fit, but only for back pain—all other claims are un­substantiated.”

The libel writ from the BCA quickly fol­lowed the publication of Trick or Treat­ment? The Guardian has offered the BCA space for a response to Singh's article. But the BCA declined, preferring instead to hide behind the façade of the “ombudsman.” The BCA writ has sparked a public campaign and over 20,000 people have signed a petition calling for reform of the libel laws because they “discourage argument and debate” and have no place in scientific disputes.

English libel laws, which are enforce­able in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.” The English libel system has no relationship to the libel laws in other countries, are so favourable to the claimant that London has been dubbed “a town named Sue.”

In November the Socialist Workers Party—part of the armed fist of the capitalist state—who is now a proud member of the capitalist ruling class and establishes “a class enemy,” national collaboration among construc­

radical party of the left.”

The notion that a mass workers party should accommodate would-be BNP voc­ers or even be talking to them is in com­pliance to a social-democratic “party of the whole class.” This view, which is common to a myriad of parties and groups including the Socialist Party and SWP, sees the workers party as an analogue of the trade union in which the trade unionists and even as well as the most backward layers of the working class, in which the backward lay­ers usually dominate. In contrast, the Lenin­ist vanguard party that we seek to build must necessarily excludes from its ranks all chauvinists and bases itself on the most advanced layers, fighting every manifesta­tion of backwardness, chauvinism and prejudice, leading the entire working class and acting as a “tribune of the people.”

March 2005 protest against planned extradition of Babar Ahmad, victim of Labour government’s “anti-terrorism” witchhunt.

We look forward to the day when the libel laws and the system of libel is swept away by socialist revolution. A future international planned social­ist economy will provide free, good quality healthcare for all and sweep away the material basis for the persistence of dan­gerous anti-scientific quackery. In a world communist society—where social classes and all forms of oppression are part of a distant, barbaric past—mankind will finally be able to put into place the power of science in the service of all humanity.

Wales resulted in some 40 Polish workers losing their jobs. According to the Guardian Web site, Towards a New Europe, published in 1975, this was settled when "the Dutch-based employer, Hertel, agreed to withdraw 40 Poles and replace them with workers owned by ExxonMobil and Total." The Socialist Party proclaimed the outcome as yet another "victory" and blandly admit­ted that the British workers were "not opposed to laggards [insulation workers] from Poland getting work on the site as long as local laggards were given the opportunity of the work first under the union agreement" (Socialist, 28 May–3 June 2009). NoSEU's election strategy consisted of feeding at the same trough as the BNP, aiming to compete for the racist vote. In November the Socialist Party and Bob Crow formed a new coalition for the 2010 election. Its leadership also includes Brian Caton—leader of the Frisson Of­fice and a long-time member of the so-called "new" coalition could be nothing other than a vehicle for chauvinism, class-col­laborationism, nationalism and imperial­ism. Power criticises this cabal because they will not form a party, and therefore "will not be a genuine left, nor a genuine demo­cratic working class activists and delivers him a blow to the already dis­mised parts of our class over to the British National Party, which can pose as "anti­establishment" unopposed by a genuine,
To this day the Lorimer was the French imperialist rule at the end of World War II. In 1999, Lane enthusiastically led rallied Australians to East Timor. To this day the DSP considers these “troops in militias” a high point of struggle. Today, the DSP’s activity relates to capitalist counter-revolution in the Soviet Union in the name of “democracy.”

For New October Revolutions!

Since the destruction of the Soviet Union, the imperialist ruling classes have been escalating their war against the working class and oppressed, suppressing social programs and democratic rights at home, while conducting military occupations abroad. To facilitate this agenda, they foster nationalism and racism along with religion and all-sided backwardness. The more politically advanced workers generally no longer identify their needs with the ideals of socialism. And the reformists trip over themselves in a race to adapt to the generalised retrogression of proletarian consciousness resulting from the final undoing of the world’s first workers state.

In spite of its later degeneration at the hands of a Stalinist bureaucracy that usurped political power beginning in 1924, the Russian Revolution showed that it was possible for the working class to overthrow capitalism, ushering in an unprecedented development of the productive forces. The fundamental lesson of the Russian Revolution is that to emancipate humanity the working class needs a revolutionary communist vanguard to lead it, at the head of all the oppressed, in the overthrow of this rotting capitalist system. Such a party will be built from the working class with the national and revolutionary forces, and the communist international, whichLegal text block

The Vietnamese Revolution and its Leadership

by Allen Myers

Lest we forget. It was at this time that leaders of Trotskyists and of the bourgeois petty-bourgeois intellectuals were executed. These executions were ordered by Tran Van Giau.
The Trotskyists and their nationalist allies had made a major contribution in the near-destruction of the revolution in the North. Preventing further retreat, if possible, was imperative. It appears, however, that the Cominform Party felt that Giau had been a success in keeping with the line then in force elsewhere in the Soviet bloc.

Letter...

(continued from page 2)

governments under Bob Hawke, the labor lawyer who ran the Australian Council of Trade Unions during Whitlam’s tenure, and then Paul Keating, made clear that the ALP’s administration of capitalism was thoroughly compatible with stout service in Washington’s drive to crush the Soviet Union, as well as in U.S. imperialism’s subsequent “new world order.” I’m not arguing that the article had to have a whole section on the Russian revolution, which is dealt with in the GPO edition, but we may be sure, were the Pentagon’s Australian bases.

Lastly, in this connection, I thought it would be useful to point out the explicitly Russian Revolution as a model for the Australian proletariat, rather than the counterrevolutionary overthrow. The Russian revolution brought out the best in the Australian working class. It brought genuine internationalism to the Australian labor movement, finding a base most naturally among the maritime unions, the Wharfies and Seamen, and continuing to find occasional expression, even if it deformed, following the Communist Party of Australia’s Stalization and descent into class collaboration. The capitalists, the ALP misleaders and “White Australia” offer only depression, war and ruin. The Australian working class has a decent future only as part of a workers state. 

Comradely, 

Dave Reynolds

ASp replies: We thank Dave for his incisive letter and for pointing out the incorrect assertion regarding the historical basis of the Australian Laborite trade-union bureaucracy contained in our article. For more on the origins of the ALP and Labor reformism, as well as a revolutionary internationalist perspective to sweep away the jackal Australian imperialists through workers revolution, we refer readers to “For a Workers Republic of Australia, Part of a Socialist Asia!” (1998), program of the Spartacist League of Australia. We also concur with his sharp points on the critical import of the Soviet Union and the “Russian Question” more generally. This is particularly so in this post-Soviet period where more politically advanced workers generally do not identify with the liberating goals of communism.

One does need to recognize that “White Australia” and protectionism along with integration into the capitalist system is the stranglehold of the bourgeoisie to, is it, the “virulent Laborite expression of Australian nationalism which has all always crippled the Australian workers, oppressing them to their class enemies.” Today’s servile Laborite trade-union bureaucracy repeatedly acts to divert workers’ struggles into reliance on the capitalist state and its parliament. In 2006/07, the ALP controlled workforce and workers unions at the ALP/National Coalition government’s reactionary union-busting Workforce Protection legislation away from the workers union struggles and into a nationalist campaign that pushed reliance on the courts, especially for defence of arbitration, and above all the election of a Labor government in the 2007 federal election only in its drive to pour millions of dollars of workers union dues into the Labor Party’s election campaign. Once elected the ALP began carrying out attacks against working people and the oppressed on behalf of the ruling class as it said it would.

Today, ACTU tops such as Jeff Lawrence enthusiastically support Rudd/Gillard’s anti-union legislation, which goes under the Orwellian title of the “Fair Work Act.” This legislation strengthens arbitration and maintains a ban on all but the narrowest strike actions. In February, responding to legal action by the ALP government’s witch-hunting Australian Building and Construction Commission, the federal court imposed fines in excess of $1.3 million against unions for anything at the West Gate Bridge construction site in Melbourne last year. Far from mobilising for the necessary class-struggles to defend the unions against the bosses’ attacks, many union tops have found energy and purpose in backing Rudd’s nationalist and racist “war on terror” state repression. From right-wing AWU boss Paul Howes to the so-called “left” construction and maritime union tops, the Labor-loyal union misleaders push protectionist poison and feed into racist anti-immigrant hysteria under the guise of defending “local jobs” or supporting the Labor government’s reactionary “border security” measures (see “Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants”? Asp No. 207, Summer 2009/10).

The ALP is what Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin termed a bourgeois workers party, thoroughly bourgeois in its program and outlook while based on the trade unions. In order for the working class to become not just a class of but a class for itself, conscious of its historic role in sweeping away capitalism, it is necessary to shatter the chains of Laborism. An internationalist revolutionary workers party will be built through a political struggle to break the working-class base of the ALP from the nationalism and loyalty to the capitalist state purveyed by its leadership. This will centrally be through a fight to take the struggle for new workers revolution and the British Labour DSP/RSA and ASp who are opponents of the dictatorship of the proletariat, having long ago made their peace with the imperialist ruling class. The Spartacist League of Australia, section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist), is committed to building a Leninist-Trotskist party in the struggle for new October Revolutions.
Mumia... (continued from page 12)

November 1998 conference at Chicago's Northwestern University Law School featured 30 people who had been released from death row after proving their innocence.

evidence against him, he was convicted on the basis of the phony ballistics and other manufactured "evidence," a "confession" coerced from him by prosecutors, mas­ sive police intimidation of witnesses and racist jury rigging. His trial was overseen by a jury selected by the state supreme court that was overheard saying he would help the pros­ ecution "fry the n-—-": To secure the death sentence, prosecutors pointed to political statements issued by Mumia as a 16-year-old Panther.

Since his trial, the courts have repeatedly tossed aside massive evidence of Mumia's innocence, starting with the confession of Arnold Beverly that he, not Mumia, shot and killed Faulkner. Yet Mumia remains unbowed, speaking out for the oppressed and the impoverished through his death row commentaries. The Parti­ san Defense Committee—a class-strug­ gle, non-sectarian legal and social defense organization associated with the Spartana­ list League!—calls on trade union­ists, death penalty abolitionists and all opponents of racist injustice to make their voices heard in demanding: Free Mumia now! Abolish the racist death penalty!

The Supreme Court moved against Mumia last April when it overturned Mumia's conviction and death sentence. Last April, it turned down Mumia's petition to overturn his death sentence, which had been overturned by the Third Circuit. The Supreme Court's death sentence, which had been overturned by the Third Circuit, their marching orders. In effect, the high court has decided that Mumia's trial had been a fair trial and that the death sentence death sentence should stand. It again ignored the massive evidence of Mumia's innocence, which included evidence against him, he was convicted on his admiration for Adolph Hitler.

From the time we first took up Mumia's case more than 20 years ago, the PDC has supported the use of every possible legal avenue available to Mumia while having no illusions in the courts or any other agency of the capitalist state. Our fight centered on the demand for a new, fair trial for Mumia. With the judicial appeals in which they put their faith nearly exhausted, their plea that the capitalist state cannot and must not move forward in its form of petition to Attorney General Eric Holder to conduct a civil rights investigation into Mumia's frame-up trial and to President Barack Obama to "speak out against the death penalty for Mumia Abu-Jamal."

These hate-in-hand appeals to America's top cop and imperialist Commander-in­Chief are a savage indictment of the liberal belief in the "democracy" of capitalist class role. Holder's Justice Department recently threw leftist attorney Lynne Stewart in pris­ on and threatened to extend her sentence by 28 more years for staunchly defending her client, who was accused of terrorist activities. Obama openly announced his support for the death penalty in his run for the White House, including in an inter­ view with right-wing journalist Michael Smerconish, one of the voices calling loudest for Mumia's execution.

After eight years of the despised Bush regime, Obama took office to give a face­ lift to blood-soaked U.S. imperialism. Reinforcing illusions that Obama repre­ sents "change," the reformist left falls after the trade-union bureaucratic, whose program of seeking "friends" in the par­ ties and state agencies of the capitalist class enemy has grossly discredited labor's fighting capacity. Meanwhile, the U.S. military still rains death on Iraq and Afghanistan, inmates from America's vast prison complex to the military's Bagram and Guantanamo Bay dungeons continue to be brutalized and tortured, and bankers get billion-dollar bailouts while workers lose their jobs and homes.

...and Haiti

(continued from page 7)

To fix the same sins as the bourgeoisie but within a radically different context and setting are the Haitian revolutionaries. The struggle of the Haitian working class against their mistreatment of the bourgeoisie. The pol­ icy of the people has nothing to do with the IMF "structural adjustment," which is not a clear and unambiguous sign that this is a movement to attack the bourgeoisie. As long as you have a party within Haiti which the party is not at all an anti-IMF sign of the bourgeoisie. The policy of the bourgeoisie...which can only lead to a positive outcome for the people. It is necessary to have a movement that is independent, outside of the Haitian political parties and independent of any external situation, arriving at those deci­ sions which are not only best to the inter­ ests of the proletariat.

The IGC's combining of a proletarian revolutionary opportunism in Haiti today is the demented logic of their glorification of Third World nationalism. In practice, they deny the horrendous impact that nearly two centuries of dependency by the U.S. and other capitalist powers has had on Haiti. The bitter truth is that the desperate conditions of Haiti today are not related to within Haiti. The key to the liberation of Haiti lies in proletarian revolution throughout the hemisphere, in solidarity with the working masses of the under­developed world. If the Haitian proletariat in the diaspora can play a key role. In addition to the brutally oppressed Haitian sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic and those else­where in the Caribbean, hundreds of thou­ sands of Haitian workers now live in Florida and from Montreal to Miami. These workers can be a vital link to class struggle by the North American proletariat.

The IGC's article does not even mention the hundreds of thousands of Haitian workers in the urban centers of North America. In contrast, as a spokesman for the Haitian workers who play a crucial role in the liberation of the Haitian masses.

To secure the death sentence, prosecutors pointed to political statements issued by Mumia as a 16-year-old Panther.

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Britain: Fascists Feed on Labour Government Racism

The following article is reprinted from Workers' Hammer No. 209 (Winter 2009-2010), newspaper of the Spartacist League/Britain, section of the International Communist League (Fourth International).

Workers Hammer

The British National Party (BNP) was awarded a badge of bourgeois respectability when the BBC defied a storm of protest to host its leader Nick Griffin on Question Time in October 2009. Having won two seats in the European Parliament and obtained over 900,000 votes in local elections in June, the BNP thirsts intend to increase their vote in the 2010 elections. The televised “debate” took place largely on the BNP’s terrain of virulent anti-immigrant racism, with representatives of all parties arguing over who is to “blame” for immigration. Labour was represented by none other than justice minister Jack Straw, who in 2006 fanned the flames of anti-Muslim racism with a provocative public declaration that he “prefers” Muslim women not to wear the niqab (veil) when coming to his constituency office (see “Britain: Racism and the Islamic Veil,” Workers Vanguard No. 886, 16 February 2007).

Responsibility for the current rise of the BNP lies squarely with the Labour government. The House of Commons has roundly deplored the racism of the last twelve years, which have relentlessly pursued the racist “war on terror” against Muslims and vied with the BNP for being “tough” on immigrants. The BNP is also thriving on attacks on immigrants, who are being scapegoated for the loss of jobs brought on by the capitalist economic crisis. Among those rounded up for deportation in a racist dragnet by the state were cleaners at London’s School of Oriental and African Studies and construction workers at the London Olympics site. The BNP are also reaping gains out of the reactionary crusade against foreign workers that began at Lindsey oil refinery in January 2009 under the slogan of “British jobs for British workers” (see “Down With Reactionary Strikes Against Foreign Workers!” [SL No. 204, Autumn 2009]). Responsibility for this lies with the Socialist Party [of Peter Taaffe, affiliated with the Socialist Party in Australia] and the trade-union bureaucracy, who led this campaign. We say: Down with reactionary strikes against foreign workers! No deportations! Full citizenship rights for all immigrants! For trade-union/movement mobilisations to stop fascist provocations!

No-one should be fooled by the BNP’s posture as a parliamentarist outfit: the BNP is and has been a fascist organisation since its inception. Fascists are paramilitary shock troops for all-sided reaction, particularly racist terror against immigrants and minorities, and smashing the organisations of the working class. As Trotsky explained in Whither France? (October 1934):

“Finance capital is obliged to create special armed bands trained to fight the workers... The historic function of fascism is to smash the working class, destroy its organizations, and stifle political liberties when the capitalists find themselves unable to govern and dominate with the help of democratic machinery.”

Griffin was convicted in 1998 of inciting racial hatred for articles that denied the Nazi Holocaust. The Nazi regime was...