For four years the Labour government has proven to be an effective instrument for administering British imperialism. As in the rest of Europe, social democrats have spearheaded the dismantling of the "welfare state"; Blair, Jospin, Schröeder etc have been serving their imperialist masters well, dishing out all-round attacks on the working class and whipping up racist hysteria. With the Tories in disarray, Blair's New Labour is again the preferred party of government for the ruling class.

Following capitalist counterrevolution in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, which wreaked economic and social devastation, rivalries between the imperialist powers have sharpened. With the world capitalist economies teetering on the brink of a major recession, capitalism in China. Labour was the most bellicose of the NATO governments during the Balkans War, which had nothing to do with protecting the Kosovo Albanians and everything to do with establishing a NATO imperialist presence in the region. Labour joins with US imperialism in bombing Iraq; likewise Blair supports Bush's military machinations against the Chinese deformed workers state, including "Star Wars" missile defence. We say: Defend China against imperialist attack!

The working class needs a revolutionary party!
Labour...
(Continued from page 1)
and Wales, the SSP intends to stand in all 72 Scottish constituencies. Together the SA and SSP will present candidates in roughly 25 per cent of all Westminster seats. The SSP is a thoroughly reformist, parliamentarian party, identical in most respects to the components of the Socialist Alliance except that where the English-based groups capitulate to Labour in Scotland, the SSP adapts to the bourgeois Scottish National Party, which had been steadily gaining ground at the expense of Labour in Scotland.

We said no vote to Labour in 1997, unlike all the groups who now form the Socialist Alliance. And again we say: No vote to Labour, imperialist butchers! The Socialist Alliance/Britain, section of the International Communist League, fights for the construction of an internationalist revolutionary party to lead a revolution which will overthrow the archaic "United" Kingdom, dominated by southern England finance capital and served by "Her Majesty's" parliament. The strategic task of revolutionaryists is to break the working class politically from the grasp of Labour and from all illusions in obtaining a better deal through parliament. Throughout the last century these illusions, particularly when passed off as "socialist" policies by Labour "lefts", have fettered the working class in every decisive confrontation with the British ruling class.

The case for workers revolution to expropriate the capitalist class and begin the implementation of a collectivised and rationally planned economy could not be more compelling. The issues which engender workers and youth into struggle — racism, de-industrialisation, imperialist bombing, increasing poverty — do not exist within the framework of capitalism, nor within the confines of Britain itself. Our perspective is an international one. We seek to mobilise workers and youth into a fight for their class interests, transcending national boundaries. This means mobilising the working class in opposition to all forms of Labourism. At the press conference launching the Socialist Alliance election campaign on 1 March we asked a few questions which are not to be ignored or ducked in the assembled "internationalists". Noting that the call for withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and from the Balkans had appeared in an earlier draft programme but had disappeared from the version distributed to the bourgeois press, our comrade asked if this was because it was controversial within the Alliance, or just not considered important. SA chairman Dave Nellist tried to dodge the question, even when pressed by Guardian journalist Polly Toynbee, saying the issue has not been discussed. Our question is: say their "priority policies for the general election" do not mention British troops, or Ireland. And as for Serbia, it's a case of "don't mention the war".

When asked if their brand of "socialism" can be achieved without a revolution, Nellist tried to dodge the question, then spluttered: "it depends what you mean by revolution. There are revolutions going on — there's a revolution in education, the Internet revolution, a shopping revolution — we want to see Labour organised, we want to see a socialist organisation!" These latter-day Labour "lefts" actually manage to make "Old Labour" parliamentarians look flaming pink! Polly Toynbee aptly captured the measure of these house-trained Labourites when she wrote that their "real aim is to block the Labour policies" (Guardian, 2 March).

The Socialist Alliance's gross capitulation to the bourgeois framework is clear: consciously removing any hint of opposition to British troops in Northern Ireland, refusing to oppose the bombing of Serbia, the biggest military aggression

February 20: Spartacus Youth Group campaign protest as US/British bombing Iraq.

1. Parliamentarism as a state system has become a "democratic" form of rule for the bourgeoisie. At a certain stage in its development it needs the fiction of a popular governing body that outwardly appears to be an organization of "the popular will," standing outside the classes, but in essence is a machine wielded by ruling capital for exploitation and subjugation of the working class.

2. Bourgeois parliaments, among the most important organizations of the bourgeois state machine, cannot as such be taken over permanently, just as the proletariat cannot possibly take over the bourgeois state. The revolutionary task is to break up the bourgeois state machine and to destroy it, and with it parliamentary institutions, whether republican or constitutional-monarchist...

3. Thus, communism rejects parliamentarism as a form of the future society. It recognizes as a form of dictatorship by the proletarian class. It rejects the possibility of taking over parliaments on a permanent basis; its goal is to destroy parliamentarism. Therefore, it is possible to speak only of using bourgeois state institutions for the purpose of destroying them. The question can be posed in this sense and in this sense alone.

TROTSKYY

LENIN

The fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat v parliamentarism

The Second Congress of the Communist International addressed the task of building a fundamentally different type than those of the Second International which meant breaking from Social Democracy. The Congress affirmed the need for unconditional military defence of the ruling nation, Nellist tried to dodge the question, even when pressed by Guardian journalist Polly Toynbee, saying the issue has not been discussed. Our question is: say their "priority policies for the general election" do not mention British troops, or Ireland. And as for Serbia, it's a case of "don't mention the war".

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On 19 February, three days after Briti- sh military forces launched an indefinite "surgical" attack against Baghdad, Labour's new "Terrorism Act" came into force. Within a month, 21 political or- iginal aircraft bomb-bombed Baghdad, and groups previously outlawed are: the Turkish leftist Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Basque nationalist group ETA, the Greek 11 November Revolution- ary Organisation, the 200,000-strong International Sikh Youth Federation as well as numerous Kashmiri, Palestinian, Egyptian and other Islamic groups. At a meeting of the listed organisations held in the House of Lords on 27 March a Soviet Mr. Cameron declared that the situation "is a challenge that even the best of the world's leaders will find themselves in. At present they are routinely asked if they are supporters of the US if they are not. There is no threat of persecution in Turkey and refused asylum. Now, if they say yes they are risking admission to a criminal off- fence and will be refused asylum.

This Labour government has commit- ted heinous crimes at home and abroad — from the bombing of Serbia and Iraq to drumming up anti-immigrant racism. The British state itself is an inter- national organisation. In the past it carried out colonial massacres in Ireland, Asia and Africa — yet it brands political or- ganisations from the Indian subcontinent and Ireland as "terrorists". This illus- trates what British "justice" and democ- racy are all about — the capitalist state is the repressive apparatus which defends the private property and rule of the bourgeoisie against the working class and oppressed.

At the meeting, Louise Christian, parliamentarian candidate for the Labourite Socialist Alliance, said the Act was "completely contrary to the tradition we have in this country". Massive protest over it has now been declared Enemy No 1. Re- ported from a meeting with a member of Labour government in 1974 to target Irish republicans. Thousands of Irish republicans and other opponents of British imperialism were swept up by the PTA. The Blair government seized on the Omagh bombing atrocity by the Real IRA as a pretext for further repression in August 1998. As we wrote at the time "it is the direct and absolute interest of the working class in Britain to mobilise against Labour's repression, against the imperialist "peace' fraud" and for British troops out of Northern Ireland now" (Workplace no 164, Septem- ber/October 1998).

The Terrorism Act targets immigrant organisations in the first instance but this is the thin end of the wedge. Ultimately it is aimed at all opponents of British impe- rialism, the entire workers movement and the Left. In a stochastic attack on political organisations, it redefnes "terrorism" to mean not the actions of a group but its ideology. It is an offence to belong to a proscribed organisation, to provide it with money or property, to display its em-blems, to speak from the same platform or to be present at a meeting with a member of a banned organisation. The govern- ment is particularly vengeful towards organisations who took part in MayDay 2000, in which Turkish and Kurdish workers joined with "anti-capitalist" youth. The same goes for Ken Living- stone who backed police repression against the protesters. Police-state meas- ures are being put in place this year — a building used by anarchists has been raided and the Kurdish and Turkish organisations, who form the core of London's traditional May Day demonstra- tions, have been cordoned off.

The competing nationalism of the various groups involved in opposing the US threat to supply Aegis guided missile destroyers to Taiwan targets China's missile systems.

US threat to supply Aegis guided missile destroyers to Taiwan targets China's missile systems.

been virtually covered up in the American press, the Guardian (24 March) wrote of "Washington's decision to turn more of its guns and missiles towards China", now deemed to be "the principal threat to American global dominance". In the last years of the Clinton administration, the US began a significant shift of its military forces to the Asia-Paci fic region.

Immediately before the US provocation over the South China Sea, a Pentagon team visited Taiwan to put together a list of weaponry for this US-sponsored capi- talist state, including advanced Aeg- gis-equipped destroyers which could take out Chinese missile systems. Taiwan has

Act is an obvious barrier to a united campaign against it. Protestant interna- tionals is the only basis on which to fight against the machinations of the British state and its Labour government. The Spartacist League fights for full citizen- ship rights for all immigrants. We seek to forge a mutltiethnic revolutionary workers party to sweep away the capital- ist system of racism and exploitation.

Defend China... (Continued from page 12)

Bush and his power-crazed foreign policy wonks, Washington changed its tune, expressing "regret" for the downing of the Chinese pilot and seeking to negotiate an end to a crisis. But it is clear that the US has acquiesced to the fact that the Chinese military has been carefully examining the EP-3E, the most advanced reconnaissance aircraft in the US's arsenal. This is an intelligence bonanza for China, which it should share with the Vietnamese, North Korean and Cuban defence forces.

Invoking "international law", Washing- ton initially thundered that the EP-3E was on a Hainan runway was sovereign territory off-limits to Chinese military personnel and proclaimed its inalienable right to carry out "fron- tline" military exercises. With Singapore for use of a deep-draft US aircraft carriers in South-East Asia are aimed squarely against China's missile capacity and target North Korea as well. Last year, the US conducted more than 50 joint military exercises with Japan, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and others, a number unequaled since the fall of the Soviet Union. The US recently sealed a deal with Singapore for use of a deep-draft navy pier, the second such facility open to US aircraft carriers in South-East Asia since the close of the American naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines in 1992. The number is located at Changi, home to strategically important Malacca Strait, through which Persian Gulf oil shipments pass to Japan.

Bush's warmongering schemes are dependent upon the use of US facilities in Britain — the radar station at Fylingdales in North Yorkshire and the listening post at Menwith Hill near Harrogate. The Blair Labour government has indicated that it will support the US National Missile Defence system by agreeing to the use of these installations. As a junior partner of the US, British imperialism seeks a share in the spoils of any capitalist restoration in Asia. Today a fifth-rate imperial power, the British ruling class once ruled over parts of China as colonial overlords until as recently as 1997 in the case of Hong Kong. The racist arrogance towards the Chinese population that characterised British rule in Hong Kong was exhibited again recently by the Labour government's attempted scoping out of Chinese people for the foot-and-mouth outbreak. Already fuming over increased racist attacks against the Chinese community, on 8 April around 1000 people joined an angry demonstration which marched from Lon- don's Chinatown to the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to protest this outrage.

A domestic reflection of increased American belligerence towards China was the racist face-up of Los Alamos sci- ence continued on page 4

Dublin Spartacist Group forum

Marxists and the struggle for Irish independence 1916-1923

British imperialist divide-and-rule, Irish nationalism and Labour betrayals of the working class led to partition!

Saturday 28 April 1.30 pm, Smyth's Pub, 12 Fairview Road, Dublin 3

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Spring 2001

3
China last month announced an increase of 18 per cent in military expenditures for this year, although its military budget is still only a fraction of the Pentagon's. China has purchased from Russia four Sovremenny guided missile destroyers, four Kilo-class submarines which are reputed to be as quiet as the most modern US subs, SU-27 fighters and advanced missiles. The purpose of the EP-3E spy flight was to monitor the Sovremenny destroyers and subs and to test Chinese air defences.

In a 1987 exercise, a US guided missile cruiser sailed right into Soviet territorial waters near a top-secret naval base on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Soviet Far East. Such "games", dubbed "Chicken of the Sea", were intended to trigger defensive actions and communications to be observed and analysed. In 1983, US intelligence had the civilian Korean Air Lines Flight 007 fly over Kamchatka while P-3 spy planes (the forerunner of the EP-3E) monitored Soviet defences. This imperialist provocation cost the lives of more than 260 innocent passengers, as KAL 007, was shot down by a Soviet missile, which took it for a US military incursion into Soviet airspace. With their finger on the nuclear trigger, the leaders of US imperialism constantly threatened the world with incineration in pursuit of their war drive aimed at the destruction of the Soviet degenerated workers state.

Imperialist rivalries increase

In a front-page column in the Milano daily Corriere della Sera last week, Italy's former ambassador to the US described Bush as "a young president who rules the world, but he is truly knowledgeable about Texas". The Bush administration is a truly scary gang, so packed with Christian fundamentalists and right-wing militarists that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has declared that the US government has "a voice of moderation". Many are veterans of the Reagan administration's Contra-gate schemes and bloody terror operations against leftist insurgents in Latin America. While taking aim at China, they are also increasingly provocative towards North Korea, capitalism towards Russia and even their European allies. This was exemplified by the recent wholesale expulsion of 50 Russian diplomats and the ultimatum to South Korea's Kim Dae-jung to halt negotiations with the North. Speaking for the virulent China-bashing wing of the Democratic Party, New Jersey Senator Robert Torricelli is now mooting the recall of the US ambassador to China as long as the EP-3E crew is held there.

Arguing that the US should be trying to play Russia, China and North Korea off against each other, conservative strategist Michael Luttwak continued, "What Reagan's crusade against the Soviet Union produced was the architecture of the masses that kept the major capitalist powers apart. The Reagan administration's desperate efforts to divert the attention of the workers from its concentration of American troops, with its war drive aimed at the destruction of the Soviet degenerated workers state toward imperialism and internal counterrevolution!"

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This is crystal clear in the bureaucracy's offer to the bourgeoisie in Taiwan to reunite on the basis of "one country, two systems". We call for revolutionary re-unification, through socialist revolution in China and proletarian political revolution on the mainland.

The Chinese population is deeply conscious of its history of oppression by Western imperialism, and of the long record of US military belligerence against the 1949 Revolution. Ending the era of semi-colonialism exemplified by the Opium Wars and the carving up of China by the colonial powers took the overthrow of the corrupt comprador bourgeois class and the creation of the Communist Party (CCP) and People's Liberation Army in 1949, creating a bureaucratically de-formed workers state today.

What Leon Trotsky, co-leader with V I Lenin of the Russian October Revolution of 1917, wrote about the Soviet Union in the "Manifesto of the Fourth International on the Imperialist War and the Proletarian World Revolution" in May 1940 applies with full acuteness to the Chinese deformed workers state today:

"The Fourth International can defend the USSR only by the methods of revolutionary struggle.

"We flatly reject the theory of socialism in one country, that brain child of ignorant and mutually excluding opportunism. Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the cutting out of the Kemal oligarchy."

Mao's alliance with US imperialism

Refusing widespread sentiment against the current Beijing regime for conciliating US imperialism, one Internet posting in China read: "We miss Chairman Mao and we are tired of Lifted-Off Workers". But it was Mao who constituted the criminal alliance with the US imperialists directed against the Soviet Union. Mao's 1972 visit to Beijing while American bombs were raining on Vietnam. The anti-Soviet alliance consummated by Mao and Henry Kissinger under Deng Xiaoping, from China's failed 1979 invasion of Vietnam to its aid to the CIA-backed mujahedin terrorists in Afghanistan. The US and the rest of the Third World are subsumed into the economic foundations of the imperialist world market.

"As it pursues "market reforms" and opens the door to exploitation by Western and Japanese imperialists and the overseas Chinese bourgeoisie, the Beijing regime is paying the price for capitalist restoration. It is simultaneously preparing the ground for a new revolutionary proletarian explosion—not a social revolution which would overturn the economic foundations of society as in 1949 but a political revolution to oust the ruling bureaucracy and to place political power in the hands of workers, soldiers and peasants councils (soviets). Such a political revolution is premised on unconditional defence of the planned, competitive economic foundations of the state and the self-management of the bureaucratically de-formed workers state."

The urgent task is to build a Trotskyist party in China to provide leadership to the combative proletariat and to link its fight for political revolution to the struggle for socialist revolution in the imperialist capitalist countries, who are already facing massive layoffs before the recession even has taken hold, on top of years of wage cuts, givebacks and the eradicating of social benefits.

In the United States, the AFL-CIO labour bureaucracy has simultaneously poisoned over the destruction of hard-won union jobs and benefits and promoted US imperialist attacks on the working class internationally. The AFL-CIO tops are in the vanguard of anti-Communist China-bashing. This is most virulently expressed by Teamsters president James Hoffa Jr, who issued a 3 April statement following the landing of the US spy plane at Hainan insisting that "Communist China continues to violate international law at each turn." Railing against "slave labour" in China,

the labour tops promote the virtues of the free market. But it won't be so easy to sell capitalist "democracy" to workers in China, many of whom have already experienced the misuse of free-market exploitation in the "Special Economic Zones" and other areas of capitalist penetration created by Beijing's "market reforms". Joining in the anti-China campaign is "progressive" AFL-CIO president Sweeney, who was in the forefront of the protectionist drive against China's entry into the WTO, a campaign that united right-wing Republicans with liberal Democrats.

It is in the direct and immediate interest of working people in the US to defend the Chinese deformed workers state against the American capitalist rulers. Just as happened in the wake of the counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union, capitalist restoration in China would embolden the US bourgeoisie, and the imperialists internationally, to ratchet up their assault on the working class and minorities at home. It would also make the world an even more dangerous place. The International Communist League fights to reforge Trotsky's Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution, as the indispensable instrument to lead the proletariat in the struggle for new October Revolutions around the world.

For proletarian internationalism

A revolutionary China of workers and peasants councils issuing out of a proletarian political revolution would face virulent imperialist reaction. But doing what it would to aid the fight for socialist revolution internationally, not least in the US, a revolutionary workers and peasants council government would have to undertake necessary economic and military measures in its own defence. This would require the reconstitution of central economic planning based on state-owned industry. Under

the name of "peaceful coexistence", the Mao regime based the basis for the policies pursued by the current bureaucracy.

Mao's heirs have increasingly opened the country to imperialist penetration. This has in order with making the resistance, with tens of thousands of strikes and workers' protests every year. Reflecting the brittle and contradictory nature of the bureaucracy, Chinese premier Zhu Rongji, who has spearheaded the deepening of "market reforms", announced last week a campaign against corruption and other forms of "commercial excess". In addition, the Financial Times (5 April) reports, "The official People's Daily newspaper carried an editorial this last month excoriating capitalism and globalization for the wealth imbalances that it makes.

So the government based on workers democracy, led by a Leninist-Trotskyist party, a centrally planned economy would optimise economic growth while eradicating the extremes of rich and poor so evident in China today. The state monopoly of foreign trade should be utilised to promote imports and exports on the world market, taking full advantage of the international division of labour. We oppose the opening of China to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) not because we favour Maoist economic autarky but because it would further undermine the monopoly of foreign trade and the collective economy.

Comparison between the imperialists for markets would provide such a revolutionary regime a certain room for manoeuvre. The Soviet workers state under Lenin and Trotsky, erected through the October Revolution of 1917, took advantage of such rivalries to strike trade and military deals with Germany and other capitalist countries. But for the revolutionary internationalist Bolsheviks, the aim was to buy time until the victory of proletarian revolution in the advanced capitalist countries, which they worked to prepare by building the Third (Communist) International. The Stalinist bureaucracy which unravelled a financial programme ending the 1923-24 put forward the anti-Marxist dogma of "socialism in one country", transforming the foreign Communist parties into bargaining chips in an escrow fund for "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism. That programme led to the destruction of the Soviet degenerated workers state through capitalist counter-revolution in 1991-92.

The all-sided misery pervasive throughout the former Soviet Union today—the wholesale devastation of industry and social services, the massive unemployment, the shocking fall in life expectancy—starkly illustrates the superiority of a planned economy over capitalist chaos. This is a lesson not only for the proletariat of China but for the working class and minorities in the US and other

Left: Migrant workers outside Shanghai railway station. Right: Anti-US protesters arrested in Beijing on 5 April. Stalinist regime fears that protests could touch off explosion by disgruntled proletariat.

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Comrades, friends and family came together at memorial gatherings of the International Communist League in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York and Paris on the weekend of March 3-4 to honour our comrade Susan Adams. A leader of our international party for nearly 30 years, Susan died at her home in Jersey City on 6 February after a two-year struggle with cancer. Susan’s family held a memorial meeting in Los Angeles on 10 February. Other ICL tributes took place internationally.

One measure of the impact Susan had on our party and its fight for an international communist society is the outpouring of letters and remembrances by ICL members around the globe, as well as by former members, friends and sympathisers and even political opponents. A speaker at the Bay Area memorial said, “Susan was somebody you could trust. She was upright and forthright. And because she was quite bright, she was very powerful. Everybody who has known her was strongly touched by her.”

It was in the Bay Area that Susan spent her first formative years as a communist in 1971-73. Much of the rest of her life was divided between work in our New York centre and in Paris as a leader of the Ligue Trotskyiste and our broader work in Europe, for many years in collaboration with her former husband, William, now an ex-member.

Before the memorial meeting in Paris, comrades marched to the Père Lachaise cemetery, where they laid a wreath at the wall which commemorates the thousands of proletarian fighters butchered by the bourgeoisie following the suppression of the 1871 Paris Commune. Wreaths were also laid at Leon Trotsky’s grave in Coyoacan, Mexico, at Karl Marx’s grave in London’s Highgate Cemetery, at the memorial to Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Liebknecht in Berlin and in a grove of redwoods in the Bay Area where the ashes of our comrade Toni Randell had been buried after her death in 1982. One Bay Area comrade explained, “It’s a tradition in the communist movement to commemorate a special occasion by laying a wreath on the grave of someone who has made a key contribution to the struggle against capitalism.”

One comrade at the New York memorial by Susan’s long-time friend Helene Brosius. Eibhlin McDonald of the Spartacist Mark, Joni, Tom and Marian, who have been associated with our party and its fight for an international communist society are precious resource, revolutionary to her bones, single-mindedly driven to build a revolutionary communist. And that she was — until her last breath.

Susan’s father, Angelo Adams — Ange — came from Greece at age four. It was the ’60s and like thousands of kids she was turning hard against the manifest injustices of racist American imperialism. At UC San Diego she threw herself into New Left politics and the new SDS chapter. But unlike many New Leftists, she started to study. She devoured Marx and Lenin and was drawn to the pro-working-class wing of SDS led by the Maoist Progressive Labor Party. She actually managed to graduate, despite an arrest that year for sitting in at the chancellor’s office and — went off to Stony Brook on Long Island for graduate school. It seems that no sooner had she arrived there than she broke from PL and started working with Spartacist in the Revolutionary Marxist Caucus of SDS.

I wouldn’t say she was too smart for PL — because they had some intelligent people. Nor is it exactly true, as her mentor in PL evidently told her when she was leaving, that she “always read too many books.” I think it was that she really considered and absorbed what she read. In her application for PL membership she wrote that she was drawn to our “consistency with the principles of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky” as opposed to the “at times reactionary Stalinoid politics of PL.”

Her New Left origins poked through from time to time. Her father, Ange, the successful banker, was being prosecuted in the early ’70s. Sue was in a real quandary — support her father, the class enemy? As she put it, Jim “kicked my
ass, so to speak*. Her memory was that he was very friendly and not catching on with you, girl? That's your father. Can't you see he's being prosecuted for things that everyone does and probably because he didn't. Get yourself out there to his trial before it's over." She did. She was always grateful for Jim's advice.

Only three months after joining the Spartacist youth group in 1971, Susan had a chance to display the courage which turned out to be so characteristic of her. She had been bloody ejected after the heady days of the New Left, the mid-'70s prompted a powerful national youth leadership. But after the heady days of the New Left, the mid-'70s smacked pretty fast into quiescence. Coming out of the '60s, Susan had an appreciation, at times nearly tinged with moralism, for the value of that kind of struggle. In a 1975 national report, she deplored the callowness of the recruits, their "lack of depth which comes from the biocultural vision of having once been Maoists or Stalinists or even New Leftists. Trotskism seems self-evident to too many of our young comrades and commitment to being a revolutionary has meant for them commitment to going to meetings, reading books, debating opponents and giving up dope. As wretched as the New Left was, one understood that becoming a radical meant risking jail, fights with the cops, etc (or at least cooling off suspension from school!). And as rotten and misleading as were the ideologies of Che, Claver and Maoism, and as part of a movement of which they were the heroes involved a level of commitment which our young comrades have not had to consider." A good dose of political education was needed, she concluded, and "some good and hard political fights this year!"

In this period, Susan worked on the article "Rape and Bourgeois Justice", a polemic against the liberal, New Left and feminist views of capitalist class injustice. "Rape and Bourgeois Justice" still stands as a guiding statement for us on the intersection of sex, race and class in a time when the whole society seems to have a form of swelling against the stream. ... The popular front is on the road to power through the elections; drawing everyone else in its wake."

Susan was of course a bit of a workaholic, diligent and sometimes earnest to a fault, though she learned to measure that a bit. Languages really did not come easily to her. She developed a fine command of French. But her ear wasn’t very good so her pronunciation was poor, which was an obstacle when dealing with snobs. She started intensive study as soon as she got there, and ten years later she was still working on her French. Later she studied German and, when she went to Moscow, she studied Russian four to five hours a day at the Russian Institute. That is a classic time of swimming against the stream."

she ran into French parochialism, an enduring weakness of the French left, including the so-called Trotskyists, who wielded the weapon of founding American Trotskyist leader James P. Cannon. In 1983, she was delighted to succeed in bringing out a speech by Cannon upon his retirement from a quite unmerited assignment in France in 1939. This was a two-edged sword in the struggle against our political opponents and for our French section. The fact alone of publishing Cannon was a polemic against the deeply held belief on the French left that nothing useful could derive from America. Susan wrote in the introduction to the Cannon pamphlet: "Get the government, the program of the leading cadre is the key to the construction of revolutionary parties; and the former requires an even higher degree of consciousness and a more deliberate design than the latter."

Cadre development and particular attention to the youth was a hallmark of her work, on which she brought to bear her wide-ranging intellectual storehouse. You’d often find her using lessons she’d learned—or wrestled with— when she gave a speech or lecture. She went as our rep to a day five academic conference on Trotsky in Wuppertal, Germany just after the disastrous 1990 East German elections which ushered in counterrevolution. There all the big-shot Trotskyist pretendors were there—from Mandel and Brouet to Michel Pablo. To their horror, she always introduced herself as a professional revolutionary. There was a group of Gorbachevite Soviet academics who were poking their heads up of the glasnost opening. Everyone worth anything about the 1923-24 period of the Soviet Union, which we also were critically examining in light of some new documentation that had emerged from the Soviet archives. Brouet had just published his Trotsky biography, which we were reviewing.

She wrote a wonderful report, and you could see her thinking and feeling and faithfully she worked over the lot of them. Some of those pretentious academics must have walked away from a nice lunch only to look down and see the knife in their stomachs. She drove Mandel into a sputtering frenzy, at a lunch in front of a bevy of frowning young social democrats, over his uncritical printing of an article in praise of the Estonian Forest Brothers, Baltic fascists who fought with the Nazi Wehrmacht against the Red Army.

LTF protests anti-gay exclusion of AIDS activist group ACT UP from June 1992 Lutte Ouvrière Fête. LTF was itself excluded for defending ACT UP.
Labour... (Continued from page 2)

that he opposed privatisation of the Tube; he has hired ex-CIA spymaster Bob Kiley to remove it from the New York subway system in the 1980s, to run London Underground. Kiley opposed Labour's scheme to split the Tube among several private companies and initially proposed instead to sell bonds to finance investment, which was supported by the Tories.

We say: Workers must mobilise to smash Labour's privatisation as well as Livingstone and Kiley's union-busting schemes (See "Livingstone hires union-buster, CIA bigwig Kiley to run Tube", Workers Hammer no 175, Winter 2000-2001.) Bob Kiley and Livingstone's scheme means higher fares and fleecing Tube workers. Privatisation has certainly meant worsened safety conditions on the railways. However, British Rail and the Tube have been deathtraps: remember the Clapham Junction crash on the nationalised railways and the horrendous fire in Kings Cross Underground. A genuinely free, safe and well-planned transport system which meets the needs of the population at large and the workers in the industry cannot be achieved under capitalism. Our programme is counterposed to both union-busting, insane privatisation and to "good old-fashioned" Labourite nationalisations.

In The Transitional Programme, Leon Trotsky explained that within the context of the struggle for the "political overthrow of the bourgeoisie and liquidation of its economic domination", the demand for the expropriation of certain key industries like rail is counterposed to "the middle-class reformist slogan of 'nationalisation'" which accepts the framework of capitalism, and that "the task of the working class is to defend working conditions which, rather than being channelled into patetic reformist schemes for nationalisation, must be linked to a struggle for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie through the seizure by the working class of the industries in question."

"Old Labour" nationalisation programme

Workers are outraged by the planned closures of the Dagenham and Luton car plants which threaten the livelihoods of entire communities. As it funnels from one crisis to the next, the capitalist system treats workers as expendable and leaves them to rot on the scrap heap of unemployement "benefits". Not surprisingly, the "maximum programme" put forward by the fake left is the Old Labour policy of nationalisation, to "save British jobs". They often hark back to the 1945 Labour government of Clement Attlee which nationalised large sections of British industry. The nationalisations of the post-war period amounted to a giant capitalist bailout of failing industries which was critical to the stabilisation of British capitalism and, with the collusion of the trade union bureaucrats, was key to stifling militant class struggles that threatened the capitalist order.

Please with the Labour government to nationalise British industries so we can compete with their rivals is necessarily a capitulation to social chauvinism and to the capitalist framework. The call to "save our jobs" plays into the hands of the bosses, fuelling racist divide-and-rule of the working class. This was most graphically seen at the April 2000 Rover demonstration, heavily built for by the SWP and supported by the Socialist Alliance. Our press told the truth: this was a Union Jack-waving orgy of British chauvinism. We counterposed a call for a class-struggle fight for jobs across national boundaries which would challenge the capitalist system. Such a fight requires a complete break from social democracy.

The SSP: calling Scottish nationalisation

The Scottish Socialist Party's programme is undulaterated reformism, centred on the call for "Scottish Fiscal Tax". They make no bones about the fact they are not for revolution. The SSP's leading lights such as STP's Carl Sheridan now style themselves the International Socialist Movement (ISM), which declared from the outset: "We do not set ourselves up as the 'revolutionary party'" (foreground, 2001). The SSP is split from Peter Taaffe's Committee for a New International (CWI), to which the Socialist Parties in Ireland and England are affiliated.

The SSP sees the coming election as a prelude to the Scottish Assembly elections in two years time. Aspiring to hold the balance of power in Edinburgh, the SSP have made repeated noises about coalition deals with the bourgeois SNP and the Greens. They declare that "at this stage, there is no significant support within the SSP for the idea of entering a future coalition government with the SNP". They are clearly not opposed on principle to coalition with the SNP, going on to say: "On the other hand, that does not mean that the SSP is prepared to collaborate with the SNP and others on specific policies that could potentially advance the interests of the SSP, the working class or further the cause of an independent socialist Scotland."

The SSP espouses standard popular-front coalition which revolutionaries reject on principle. It cannot advance the interests of the working class, rather it ties the working class to bourgeois parties which are its open enemies.

In England, the oppressor nation, the duty of the revolutionary party is to mobilise workers in opposition to British chauvinism and to champion the right of self-determination for Scotland and Wales up to and including independence for Scotland and Wales.

Must oppose Scottish and Welsh nationalism and fight for voluntary integration with the proletariat of England. Workers from Scotland, Ireland and Wales have historically been among the most militant within the British workers movement and there is a basis - much to the chagrin of the English working class, in fact - for common class struggle.

The CWI's position on Northern Ireland - which has historically been pro-British and pro-London - was disputed in the SSP split. Peter Hadden of the Irish Socialist Party argued that "Trotskyists demand the same reformist crap that sows deadly illusions in the capitalist state. Racism is endemic to capitalist society and to the cops who enforce its rule and nothing short of a workers revolution will ultimately bring an end to this. We call for March 1: Socialist Alliance chairman launching their election campaign.

full citizenship rights for all immigrants and we seek to mobilise the power of the working class to fight back against racist, anti-immigrant terror and defeat fascist provocations. Unlike the fake left, who with liberal, moralistic and condescending platitudes intone that "refugees are welcome here", we recognise that immigrants are not simply victims of racism but an integral part of the proletariat. The struggle to emancipate workers from capitalist exploitation can only go forward if the organised workers movement takes up the fight against all forms of oppression, which points to the need to break from Labour.

The crisis of proletarian leadership

The SSP's John Rees (International Socialism, Spring 2001) presents the Socialist Alliance as something of a "united front" between "socialists" and "communist" factions. Rees regrettably rehearses the time-worn argument that the way to "detach" workers from Labour is always to vote Labour. He even invokes Lenin, a natural assertor that Labour is "as Lenin described it, a 'capitalist workers' party'', then goes on:

"The challenge for socialists is to act on this contradiction in a way that appeals to the class consciousness which encourages workers to support Labour rather than the Tories in order to detach them from their allegiance to the Labour Party. Asserting that they and their party are the same as the "party of the working class" and that Labour is "as Lenin described it, a 'capitalist workers' party'', then goes on:

March 1: Socialism Alliance chairman Dave Neilist hosts press conference

"This is an obvious example of the capitalist state. Racism is endemic to capitalist society and to the cops who enforce its rule and nothing short of a workers revolution will ultimately bring an end to this. We call for full citizenship rights for all immigrants and we seek to mobilise the power of the working class to fight back against racist, anti-immigrant terror and defeat fascist provocations. Unlike the fake left, who with liberal, moralistic and condescending platitudes intone that "refugees are welcome here", we recognise that immigrants are not simply victims of racism but an integral part of the proletariat. The struggle to emancipate workers from capitalist exploitation can only go forward if the organised workers movement takes up the fight against all forms of oppression, which points to the need to break from Labour.

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March 1: Socialist Alliance chairman launching their election campaign.

used that "troops should be withdrawn" but also upheld the "right" of Orange-men to march in Catholic areas, saying: "Not withstanding that the Orange Order is a reactionary sectarian organisation we do not deny its right to march" (CWI Members Bulletin, May 2000). The ISM rejected this, mindful that they need to win a substantial vote from the Catholic working class in the west of Scotland — traditionally a Labour Party heartland. The SSP election manifesto does call for "The demilitarisation of Northern Ireland" which is a nod in the direction of calling for troops out but this would be conditional on the IRA "decommissioning" their weapons.

However the SSP certainly have not given up the "UVF connection". The same issue of their newspaper which published their election manifesto also bragged that they "contributed to breaking down sectarian barriers" in the west of Scotland, by hosting the Ulster Volunteer Force — Loyalist paramilitary killers — alongside Sinn Fein! In their own words: "In November 1999, on the weekend of a Celtic-Rangers clash, the Scottish Socialist Party organised a major public event, Socialism 2000, at which Sinn Fein shared a platform with the Progressive Unionist Party — which has links to the UVF — for the first time ever in Scotland" (Scottish Socialist Voice, 16 February). The SSP participated in this noxious event and gave it their seal of approval.

No illusions in the racist capitalist state

British parliamentary democracy is merely the dictatorship of the capitalist class over the exploited and oppressed. As VI Lenin, leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution wrote in The State and Revolution: "There decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament — this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics."

The state is not neutral but is the instrument for the repression of one class by another; its core is made up of armed bodies of men, eg the prisons, cops and courts. Betraying deep-seated reformism, the Socialist Worker (10 March) produced an alternative "budget" which proposed that police wages "will be frozen"!

An undated Socialist Alliance leaflet entitled "The anti-racist alternative at the general election" states that it "stands for grassroots democratic control of the police, and a crackdown on individual and collective racism". It then reproduces a protest line from a same reformist crap that sows deadly illusions in the capitalist state. Racism is endemic to capitalist society and to the cops who enforce its rule and nothing short of a workers revolution will ultimately bring an end to this. We call for
the worst kind of reactionaryists at that, who act quite in the spirit of the bourgeoisie. It is an organisation of the bourgeoisie, which exists to systematically dupes the working class. The British Noskes and Scheidemanns [German Social Democrats at whose behalf revolutionary leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Camillo Grinatti wrote and to whom they owed so much] (quoted in The Second Congress of the Communist International, 1917).

Lenin’s pamphlet “Left-Wing Communism — an Infantine Disorder” was written to help develop tactics for communists to intervene into reformist parties, to split them and win small parties to the communist parties. He advocated critical support to Labour for the national reformism of the Bourgeoisie, but the Left-Wingers were designed to exacerbate the contradiction between the working class and the bourgeois order. While still a bourgeois party, this is certainly not pretend to be on the side of workers and peasants.

The Labour Party had yet to take hold of the reins of capitalism and their treacherous nature was not so clear to the workers. The majority of British workers were members of the Labour Party at the same time, meaning in the hundreds of thousands to stop Britain’s military intervention against the infant workers state. Soviet Russia, the only society ever ruled by workers councils, emerged as a result of the October 1917 Revolution led by the Bolsheviks which deposed the Tsarist regime and expropriated its property and ruthlessly suppressed attempts to restore the capitalist order. British dockers refused to be involved in the British patriotism which the Labour Party wanted a system similar to the Soviet system, which they understood to be superior to capitalism, but they were unable to do so because of the “worker ownership” enshrined in Clause IV of Labour’s constitution, which turned out to mean nationalised industry under capitalist management.

Leninist tactics towards reformist parties are designed to exacerbate the contradiction between the workers and the bourgeoisie. This is absurd, but it flows from the fact that they stand in the tradition of the Labourite reactionaryists Lenin was so scathing about in his pamphlet “Left-Wing Communism.”

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imperialists through workers revolution and the formation of a new state. That war had nothing to do with defence of the Kosovar Albanians. It was aimed from the start at asserting US dominance in Europe. The US plans to install a substantial NATO military presence in Serbia. We denounced the sons of a people wracked by the world’s bloodiest mass murderers, who wreaked more destruction on Yugoslavia than the Hitler’s in World War II, denouncing in Workers Hammer no 169 (July/August 1999): “This imperialist conjuncture is a blow not only to the people of Serbia and throughout the Balkans, but to the oppressed world over. It will place the Balkans, as of Greece, Romania and Albania alike — under the direct thumbs of the imperialists, exacerbating national hatreds in the region. It will fuel the rcapacity of the imperialist powers at home and abroad. It will sharpen the conflicting appetites of the major capitalist powers, accelerating the drive to an even bloodier war in the region.”

Kosovo was turned into a NATO protectorate, divided into British, French, German, Italian and American zones of occupation, with the US calling the shots as the main power. Beneath the seeming amity among the imperialist occupiers lie very different interests. German and French banks, with their traditional sphere of influence, especially in the northern Balkans; the D-mark is now the main currency in Kosovo and elsewhere in the Balkans. Britain’s ambitions were made clear by the bizarre ceremony staged last week in London. New York Times’ Howard, as Crown Prince Alexander was granted Serbian citizenship in the suite where he was born in 1945, a prelude to re-establishing the long-lost throne of the former “Yugoslav territory” the day he was born in order to ensure his claim to the (abolished) throne of Serbia. France has historic appetites in Serbia, and Italy in Albania, while Russia has reverted to the imperialist protectorate, divided into British, French, Italian and Russian zones of occupation, with the Russian army. Imperialist-backed counterrevolutionary “star wars” and NATO mili­

domiance is a telling illustration of the collusorship and instability of the new state of Macedonia is today under an international spotlight is a telling indica­tion of the Russian occupation troops move up among Bulgaria, many fleeing to the Balkan peninsula in the years before World War I, separated by artificial boundaries, cutting through the many peoples of the region, in order to suit the Great Powers — chiefly Britain, tsarist Russia, Bismarck’s Germany and Habs­

burg Austria. This period marked the ascendancy of the modern imperialist epoch, when Bolshevik leader VI Lenin later called the “highest stage of capitalism.” Lenin warned the world of the concentration of monopolies, “organized capital” — often in the form of超级多边主义，has shown itself no less proficient at bloody “ethnic cleansing” than the Serb chauvinists. Under the protection of its NATO impe­

rialist patrons, the UCk has forced tens of thousands of Serbs and Roma (Gyps­
ies) from their homes through geno­

cratic massacres, most recently bombing a busload of Serbian civilians in February. Moreover, in the 1999 war the ques­tion of Kosovo was subordinated to military defence of Ser­bia against British/US/NATO forces, which likewise attempted to secure the US-dominated but self-governing “protection zone” for the Kosovo Albanians. In 1999, with the US and NATO forces still occupying Kosovo, New York Times’ Alastair Strother, Mao Tse-tung’s Englishlanguage representative, reports a new policy review by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld portraying China “as the principal threat to American security” and concluding that China’s accession to the World Trade Organization and its development of advanced Aegis radar systems, while pushing full speed ahead with plans for its “star wars” missile shield, would chiefly neutralise China’s nuclear arsenal. Imperialist-backed counterrevo­
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burg Austria. This period marked the ascendancy of the modern imperialist epoch, when Bolshevik leader VI Lenin later called the “highest stage of capitalism.” Lenin warned the world of the concentration of monopolies, “organized capital” — often in the form of
Under the impact of a major war in Europe involving the imperialist powers, we can see the spectacle of erstwhile "revolutionaries" and "anti-imperialists" joining pro-NATO war. Only a minority of these fake socialists who most loudly and assiduously promoted the lie that what was at issue was the plight of the Kosovan Albanians, a minority of them, are going to be disappointed. The rest of the "revolutionary" intelligentsia, bearers of the Bolshevik mould, the Stalinist推荐阅读，the bourgeois "public opinion". Amid "ethnic cleansing" on all sides, the fake lefts consistently lined up behind whichever nationality Western imperialism momentarily favoured — and always against NATO's chief nemesis, nearest Serbian enemies.

As the US and Britain promoted the Bosnian Muslim regime in 1993, WP dutifully claimed, in "Solidarity with Bosnian Muslims!!!" WP joined with the U.S. in a campaign for "Workers Aid to Bosnia", which openly collaborated with NATO's "peacekeepers" and helpfully provided aready refused to defend the Bosnian Serbs against NATO's bombing campaign with the line that "each side's strategic goals are reactionary" (5 September 1995). For its part, the ISO claimed to oppose imperialist intervention in Yugoslavia/Libya. But when the塞尔维亚和波斯尼亚 socialists for not doing enough to oust Milosevic from power, writing: "Opposition parties have called on the West to take a tough line, but have come away disappointed" (Socialist Worker, 6 December 1996).

When the West's attentions shifted to Kosovo in 1999, the NATO "socialists" followed suit, invoicing the fact that the social-democratic parties they supported were now in power in much of Western Europe. They raised a clamour for "independence for Kosovo" and championed the UCK, which boasted of spotting targets for NATO bombing sorties. In a statement distributed at a demonstration on 30 March 1999 public meeting in London, WP claimed to "support the Serbian forces' self-defence against NATO attack" but "not in Kosovo which they have no right to occupy" — i.e. not on the part of the Montenegrin capital field. The Blair's Labour Party, which was the most belligerent government in the war in Yugoslavia, was WP's one of the most vociferous promoters of NATO's UCK puppet, marching alongside NATO flags in a "Workers Aid for Kosovo" demonstration in London and co-sponsoring a London public meeting whose main speaker was a rabidly pro-NATO Albanian nationalist.

Across the channel, the French UDEC group, the Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire, echoed the anti-American nationalism of the French bourgeoisie, promoting the UN on the Organisaiton for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as an alternative to NATO. Daniel Bensaid, a prominent French UDEC leader, co-signed a statement calling for a "multinational police force" in Kosovo "under the auspices of the OSCE". His line was joined by Trotskyist leaders (Rouger, 1 April 1999). With the British SWP immersed in an "antiwar" coalition with the French Socialists, the American ISO led "left" Tony Benn, SWP spokesman Alex Callinicos likewise signed the pro-OSCE appeal. And while the SWP rechristened its Bennie Labourism, the American ISO bent to the prevailing pressure of "human rights imperialism", idiotically whining that "NATO bombs" are "bracing peace", the ISO argued for self-determination for Kosovo and echoed the lie that the issue was the plight of the Albanian refugees, pleading in Socialist Worker (7 May 1999): "Money for Refugees, Not for War!!"

"Albanian liberation" meets "Serbian revolution"

Hailing the imperialist-backed Albanian nationalists in Kosovo, the same groups were soon tailing the imperialist-backed Serb chauvinist Vojislav Kostunica in the so-called "Serbian revolution" that ousted Milosevic, which as we noted in a headline at the time was "Made in the U.S.A." (Workers Vanguard no 744, 20 October 2000). In a 10 October 2000 posting on its Web site, WP enthused over "a mighty popular revolution", fatuously claiming that Kostunica "has not offered himself as an open tool of Nato". Compelled to acknowledge the well-documented ties of the anti-Milosevic opposition forces to Western imperialism, the ISO's International Review (December 2000-January 2001) nonetheless concluded that "it is neither the cause nor the driving force of the revolt". And the British Socialist Worker (24 March) declares even now: "Hundreds of thousands of people in Serbia took to the streets and brought down Milosevic, no thanks to NATO".

To be sure, Kostunica did not openly embrace NATO. He is, if anything, even more of a chauvinist than Milosevic, staging a photo-op with Serb chauvinist paramilitary killers in Kosovo in 1998 and praising Radovan Karadzic, Serbia's extreme nationalist party in last November's Bosnian election. But Kostunica's election victory was bought and paid for by the US and other NATO powers, especially Germany, which openly funded and brainwashed the opposition party. The so-called "unified" party of Kostunica, the new nationalist platform with threats of continued economic sanctions if they didn't vote the right way. One of the chief recipients of imperialist largesse was the OTP, a party closely aligned to the Slovenian Serbs, whose omnipresent clenched-fist signs and "Call for nation's (finished)" stickers were paid for by the US. With Milosevic ousted, as the New York Times (19 March) observed, "The Bush administration and NATO have gone out of their way to paint the Serbs as 'Albanian extremists', a far different description than the portrayal of Kosovan Albanians in 1995 as a persecuted minority needing help." Now that the UCK is being discarded by its imperialist patrons, the opportunists find themselves in a quandary. Reflecting the European governments' hard line against the UCK, the British Socialist Worker (10 March) declares that "publications of Macedonian ultranationalist parties have been allowed to flourish in part because they operate in zones for which the US is responsible." 

FAKES AND FOOLS

Faking socialists as an imperialist war. The Social Democratic parties of Bulgaria and Greece, the Communist League of France and the ISO's "internationalist" fraction in Britain and other countries have been repeatedly lying and deceiving the people of the world in an attempt to cover up the Western imperialist war in Yugoslavia. As Joseph Rothschild noted in his article in The New Internationalist (1959), "the manipulators' game is to take the people for fools. At every turn, the manipulators are weaving a web of lies that are so carefully fashioned that they are supposed to win the people's confidence." 

In May 1919, the Tsenskiiy group described themselves as the Communist Party of Bulgaria. As Joseph Rothschild noted in his The New Internationalist (1959): Origins and Development 1883-1936 (1959), their adherence to the new Communist International brought into it a party very much in the Bolchhevist mould, the "only mass party, other than the Bolshevik one, of a truly 'Russian' complexion." At its founding congress, the Bulgarian party proclaimed that the independence of the Balkan peoples could only be assured by the establishment of a Balkan Federation Soviet Socialist Republics.

The current crop of counterfeit "Marxists" and "Trotskyists" stand in the tradition not of the Bolshevists and Bolsheviks but of the German Social Democracy — denounced by Lenin as "social-imperialists" — which voted for imperialist war credits and mobilised the forces of the tsarist autocracy against the workers revolution in 1917, which pointed the way out of imperialist war to the proletariat. The Bolsheviks in 1917, which pointed the way out of imperialist war to the proletariat.

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US spy plane provocation

Courageous Chinese pilot Wang Wei, Provocation by US spy plane is part of calculated escalation by American imperialism against Chinese deformed workers state.

Defend China!

We print below an article adapted from Workers Vanguard no 755, 13 April 2001. Since the article was written, the crew of the American plane have been released by the Chinese authorities following a climbdown by the Bush administration.

APRIL 10 — Whatever happened in the skies above China’s Hainan Island last week — and Beijing’s account is a lot more plausible than Washington’s — the US spy plane provocation was no accident. It was part of a deliberate, calculated escalation of US military pressure against the People’s Republic of China, aimed at furthering the capitalists’ goal of smashing the 1949 Chinese Revolution and reimposing US imperialism’s exploitation on China’s working masses. As proletarian internationalists in the heartland of world imperialism, the Socialist League/US declares its class solidarity with the Chinese proletariat and the Chinese workers state, however bureaucratically deformed. We salute Wang Wei, the pilot who is presumed dead after defending his country against imperialist espionage and provocation.

With all the arrogance that comes of being the self-proclaimed “world’s only superpower”, US imperialism thought it could dictate terms of submission to China. President Bush imperiously demanded the immediate return of the EP-3E plane and its crew, while the chauvinist American media smeared the downed Chinese pilot as a “cowboy” who didn’t know what he was doing and got what was coming. But unlike the small, defenseless countries over which America’s rulers regularly ride roughshod, China does not fall into the category of a “rogue state” — because it has nuclear weapons.

When Beijing refused to simply bow to the dictate of “Xiao Bushi” (Little Chairman), US imperialism struck out in fury. Given substantial Macedonian capabilities and support its allies into a full-scale war.

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All British/UN/NATO troops out now! Balkans tangle

The following article is reprinted from Workers Vanguard no 755, March 2001. Since then, Slobodan Milosevic has been arrested in Serbia at the behest of the Americans who are pushing for him to be tried in the UN “war crimes tribunal” in The Hague.

MARCH 26 — Less than two years after the US-led NATO onslaught against Serbia, the Balkans powder keg threatens to explode in the imperialists’ faces. Having used the struggle of the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) as a pretext for their war of domination against the former Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic, the imperialists now find the UCK pushing the region towards renewed intercommunal conflict. “West Is alarmed as Warfare Grows in Balkans Again”, read a headline in the New York Times (17 March).

The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, which provided a platform for NATO’s war against Serbia, is embroiled in a potential civil war with the National Liberation Army, which claims to be distinct from the Kosovo guerrillas but whose Albanian initials are also UCK. On 21 March, a German KFOR (Kosovo occupation force) tank convoy and a thousand troops moved into the town of Tetovo amid heavy fighting between Macedonian troops and UCK irregulars. Earlier this month, a US-led KFOR unit engaged in a firefight with UCK commandos on the Kosovo border. Responding to European calls for more “robust” action against the Albanian separatists, US secretary of state Colin Powell now promises to help augment the Macedonian regime’s “military capabilities” and support its “efforts to bolster a democratic, multiethnic state”. Given substantial Macedonian Slav and Albanian minorities in Greece and Turkey’s poison pen as patron of the Balkan Muslim peoples, the UCK’s efforts for a “Greater Albania” could easily pull these historic enemies — and NATO partners — into a full-scale war.

For a socialist federation of the Balkans!

In Bosnia, which remains occupied by upwards of 20,000 troops under United Nations auspices, the nationalist Croat Democratic Union threatens to secede and bring down the “multiethnic, democratic” house of cards set up by the US-imposed Dayton Accord in 1995, reviving the spectre of renewed ethnic slaughter among Bosnian Muslims, Croats and Serbs.

Serbia, anointed a “democracy” by the masters of Wall Street, Frankfurt and the City of London in the wake of Milosevic’s ouster last autumn, has chafed under repressive rule by the local UCK offshoot into the imperialist-imposed “ground safety” zone along its southern border with Kosovo. NATO has now invited Serbian military forces back into this area.

While opportunist leftists tailed behind their respective capitalist governments in beating the war drums for “poor little Kosovo” two years ago, the International Communist League fought for the defeat of the British/US/NATO continued on page 3

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