Oppose domestic repression, imperialist "retaliation"

# Attack on the World Trade Center

Immediately after the indefensible attack on the World Trade Center and hijacking of civilian planes, Tony Blair made it crystal clear that he will fully support whatever military action the US government takes in revenge. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw declared the government's intention to put Britain under "increased security of a kind people in Northern Ireland have had to live with for decades". For workers, minorities and immigrants this means the bloody police-state repression that oppressed Catholics suffer from the British Army and the RUC. Ominously, Blair told parliament: "We are under threat and we must react". He threatened that civil liberties may have to be sacrificed to ensure people could live "free of terror".

Labour's draconian Terrorism Act will undoubtedly be invoked. The Act bans a whole swath of mainly immigrant and Islamic organisations but ultimately it is aimed at all opponents of British imperialism, the entire workers movement and the left. The government is setting up British Muslims as targets but all Asians and anyone of Near Eastern origin are under threat: already a number of Sikhs have been attacked. The only state-funded Muslim school in Britain and several private schools have closed down after receiving threats and a group of Muslim infants have been harassed on their way to school by racists saying they should "go back where they came from". Fascist graffiti against Muslims appeared immediately on Tuesday. This comes on top of murderous attacks by fascists and police occupation of the Asian communities in the North of England in the summer. Now police in Bradford chose the days after the attack in the US to arrest twelve Asian youths in dawn raids. The Spartacist League/Britain says: Workers and minorities must defend the Muslim population and all victims of Labour's racist witch hunt!

These police-state measures against immigrants and minorities are the domestic reflection of the impending murderous NATO retaliatory war measures. On Wednesday, 12 September, NATO took the unprecedented measure of invoking Article Five, which compels all NATO powers to join in a united military response to an attack on any one NATO member. Blair, who is 100 per cent with the US government, took the lead in working for imperialist "unity" in Europe in support of the US, to back murderous military strikes against Afghanistan or wherever is put in the crosshairs. At the same time, Israel is on a killing spree in the West Bank, murdering eleven Palestinians on 12 September alone. We say: Defend the Palestinian people!

The equation of Muslim = "terrorist" is a racist lie being pushed by the deeply unpopular Labour government and the media, in the same spirit of the decades-old equation of Irish = "terrorist" to foster chauvinist poison and divide the working class. One of the fruits of this divide-and-rule policy can be seen in the horror that faced Catholic children on their way to school in the Ardoyne, Belfast, as they were besieged by Loyalist bigots. We say: British troops out of Northern Ireland now!

While we condemn this insane act of terrorism, which has claimed the lives of countless innocent people in the US we in the SL/B warn that the British state itself is an international force for terrorism — it carried out colonial massacres in Ireland, Asia and Africa. This Labour government were front-runners in the bombing of Serbia and the continuing bombing and starvation blockade of Iraq. Justified anger against the terrorist atrocity in the US is being cynically manipulated by imperialist mass murderers. A banner hung outside the US embassy in Berlin captured the knowing fears of one protestor: "No revenge, please. No World War III!"

Ethnic and national minorities are not the only domestic targets in the sights of the capitalistic state. It would be very convenient for the bosses and the Labour government if working-class anger over a racially orgied patriotic gore. For their part the trade union bureaucrats seized the opportunity to sacrifice the class interests of the workers to the bosses on the bloody altar of "national unity"; TUC misleaders used this as an excuse to abandon their "battle" — which only amounted to a war of words — with the Labour government over privatisation of public services. The French Communist Party has supported the suppression of civil liberties by the popular-front government who re-activated Vigipirate, unleashing thousands of paramilitary forces throughout the country — this will chill working-class dissent and self-defence. Italian union leaders called reactionary strikes "against terrorism and for democracy", joining forces with Bonapartist fascist heirs of Mussolini in the Alleanza Nazionale. Australian and Italian trade union tops called off planned strikes to make a united stand with the capitalist rulers. Such acts will only embolden the bourgeoisie to exact greater sacrifices from working people.

Already after Genoa, the European rulers announced the formation of a multinational police force. With the horrific and indefensible terrorist acts against the US, the Italian Interior Minister now wipes the blood of Carlo Giuliani off his hands by announcing that the "Genoa affair" is "closed". With economic recession looming, it should be clear that those bullets fired at anarchists in Goteborg and Genoa were aimed by EU powers at the workers of Europe!

The Socialist Workers Party condemns the terrorist acts while noting that "Tony Blair also sent British planes to bomb in Serbia and Kosovo, killing civilians and refugees" (Socialist Worker, 15 September) just Socialist Worker says nothing about the racist dragnet, which the Labour government is about to unleash under the pretext of fighting "terrorism". The SWP fuelled the climate for today's grotesque state repression by refusing to defend the Black Bloc anarchists after Genoa and the fact that they don't call for British troops out of Northern Ireland. The SWP perennially stand behind their own bourgeoisie, particularly when Labour is in power. As part of the Socialist Alliance they supported the re-election of "bonfire" Blair's imperialist Labour government. When US and British imperialism were arming and supporting the fundamentalist mujahedin, including Osama bin Laden, in a proxy war against the Soviet Red Army in Afghanistan, the Clifties enthusiastically cheered them on: "Just as socialists...

continued on page 4
Globalise Resistance mobilise anti-China protest

Dublin, 3 September: Anti-communist Imperialism and capitalist restoration. We say: Defend China against imperialist and capitalist restoration!

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji’s visit to Ireland at the beginning of September sparked an outpouring of anti-Communist vitriol from the Labour Party, liberals and the fake left including the Socialist Worker’s Party (SWP), Socialist Party and Workers Solidarity Movement. The leader of the Labour Party Ruairi Quinn boycotted the state dinner with Zhu in protest and the reformists criticised the government for welcoming what the Socialist Party called the “leader of a regime which is no manner, shape or form Socialist and has an appalling human rights record”. A motion voted at the Socialist Party’s first youth conference on the eve of Zhu’s visit stated “We demand that the Irish government expel him here as they on the one hand, can do deals with a bureaucratic and totalitarian state and on the other, condemn the anti-capitalist movement en bloc for the violence in Genoa protests.” The Socialist Party and SWP take their cue from Labour and side with imperialism against the Chinese workers state, albeit bureaucratically deformed, in which capitalism was overthrown by the 1949 revolution.

On Monday 3 September the SWP front group Globalise Resistance held a 250-strong protest against Zhu’s visit. Their leaflet said “The Chinese government is responsible for acts of serious repression against its people and neighbours. The Irish government is complicit in its silence.” The “democratic” Irish state respires workers, women, Travellers and immigrants and contributes forces to imperialist “peace-keeping” missions from the Balkans to the Near East and East Timor! The counterrevolutionary protest was dominated by placards and flags demanding “Free Tibet” — which has been an imperialist rallying cry for counter-revolution in China for decades — and supporters of the Falun Gong movement mixed in with SWP placards declaring “No welcome to the butchers of Tiananmen Square”, a Socialist Party banner and anarchists including the Workers Solidarity Movement. When a group of about 30 Chinese youth with a banner in Chinese reading “Welcome Zhu Rongji” started to shout pro-China slogans the organisers of the anti-communist protest urged people to go around behind “the Chinese” in order to intimidate them. The Falun Gong supporters carried dozens of posters demanding freedom for Zhao Ming, a former Trinity College student who is allegedly imprisoned in China because of his support to Falun Gong. Falun Gong is but the latest in a long line of religious movements used by the imperialists as battering rams for capitalist counterrevolution.

During the anti-Soviet Cold War the Irish state condemned the Chinese deformed workers state, the SWP and Socialist Party called for counter-revolution which we supported against brutal repression by the Stalinist bureaucracy. However, by condemning the Stalinist bureaucrats while refusing to criticize the Chinese workers state against counter-revolution the SWP joins with their own bourgeoisie in elevating bourgeois “democracy” above what is central for Marxists: the class character of the state. Zhu Rongji could have denounced the clericalist Irish state for the total lack of abortion rights for women, the brutal repression of Irish Travellers and the racist deportations of migrants just to mention the exploitation of the working class. However, Zhu and the Chinese Stalinist bureaucracy have been involved in conciliating imperialism and implementing “market reforms”. The International Communist League fights for the unconditional military defence of China against imperialism and internal capitalist counterrevolution. The working class in China needs a Leninist-Trotskyist party, to sweep away the parasitic bureaucracy and to defend China against imperialism and capitalist restoration.
Labour government fuels racist terror!

Tony Blair’s Labour government has placed itself in the forefront of George Bush’s “crusade” against so-called “global Islamic terrorism” which is being stoked up to white heat following the criminal attack on the World Trade Center (see main article). The domestic side was murkily stoked up to white heat following the criminal attack on the World Trade Center (see main article). The domestic side was primarily Afghanis and in nearby Bolton petrol bombs were thrown at mosques, tổing a mosque while people were inside. This is an escalation of racist terror in which the Asian minority, particularly in former textile towns like Oldham, Burnley and Bradford were subjected to orchestrated assault by police and fascists during the summer followed by state repression against Asian youth. As desperate refugees from the world’s poorest countries risk their lives to enter Britain, Labour ministers compete with the Tories over who can be more racist. Among Labour’s anti-immigrant measures are fines of £2000 on rail companies for each “illegal” immigrant found on trains from France. In response, Eurotunnel Fred tried to force the French government to shut down the Red Cross refugee centre at Sangatte on the French side of the tunnel, where over 1500 refugees—mainly Afghans and Iraqi Kurds—are held. Under pressure from Britain, the French government scrapped plans to open a second Red Cross centre nearby. Asylum-seekers in Britain are routinely jailed while their applications are pending. Asylum-seekers in Britain have no hope of ever finding a decent job, are viewed by the capitalist masters as expendable, and as a potential source of social unrest. The government whips up racism to scapegoat them for the economic decay of Britain. Asian youth today are being subjected to the same treatment dished out to black youth in Brixton and Tottenham in the Thatcher years—they were vilified and branded as “criminals”, as a pretext for state repression. Now after the attacks in the US, these youth are under even greater threat. The Spartacist League/Britain said: “No vote to Labour, imperialist butchers!” and when Asian areas of Oldham were under police occupation during the election campaign we issued a leaflet which said: “Urgently needed is trade union-centred protest against the police occupation of the Asian community. This means drawing in the power of the urban working class of the Manchester area so that besieged minority youth in this enclave of Oldham, a run-down former mill town, are not left to go it alone against the organised violence of the state, its cops, courts and prisons—reprinted in Workers Hammer no 177, Summer 2001 We fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants, that is, for a full-scale immigration policy which can succeed in getting into this country, regardless of whether the state regards them as “economic immigrants”, “legal” or “illegal” immigrants.

Fascists are race-terrorists whose ultimate aim is the destruction of the workers movement. They are kept in reserve by the capitalist class to be unleashed in times of social crisis or working-class upheaval. However, any strategy to deal with the fascist menace and to combat the racist terror which is endemic to capitalist society must be linked to a programme for the overthrow of the capitalist system that breeds it. We seek to win minority workers and youth who are disgusted by Labour and by racism to our revolutionary perspective. Britain’s racist and economic deterioration will only be redressed through socialist revolution and the working class can and must be mobilised against British imperialism and its racist benchmen. Minority workers are a strategic part of the proletariat and an integral component of the only force capable of destroying the racist system of British capitalism; they are also a bridge to the workers and peasant masses of the neo-colonial Third World, forging links in an international socialist perspective. Workers of immigrant origin have the least illusions in the camouflage of the Labour Party—illusions which are the primary
welcomed the defeat of the U.S. in Vietnam, we welcome the defeat of the Russians in Afghanistan” (Socialist Worker, May 1988).

In contrast to this kind of Labourite and anti-communist politics we Trotskyist internationalists consistently draw a class line: against the capitalist rulers at home and in solidarity with our class brothers and sisters abroad in the fight for world socialist revolution, the only solution to bigotry, backwardness, religious obscurantism, and the ever more imminent threat of world war. We are honoured to reprint the statement by our comrades of the Spartacist League/US, written under difficult circumstances and from inside a wounded and dangerous imperialist beast.

Statement of the Political Bureau of the Spartacist League/US

SEPTEMBER 12 — Yesterday’s attack on the World Trade Center, carried out through the hijacking of civilian airliners that killed hundreds of passengers and crew was an indefensible act of criminal terror. While it may be viewed as a symbol of the wealth and global reach of U.S. imperialism, the World Trade Center had workers of all races, ethnicities and religions who were employed there. And at 9 a.m. on a workday morning, the working masses with their capitalist exploiters and oppressors! — Democrats and Republicans — are all too eager to be able to wield the bodies of those who were killed and wounded in order to reinforce capitalist class rule. It’s an opportunity for the exploiters to peddle “one nation indivisible” patriotism to try to direct the burgeoning anger at the bottom of this society away from themselves and toward an indefinable foreign “enemy,” as well as immigrants in the U.S., and to reinforce their arsenal of domestic state repression against all the working people. This is particularly apparent as hundreds of thousands more jobs are being axed — adding to the mountain of human poverty, misery and all-sided degradation that has been created by the American ruling class over the past decade with the destruction of social programs benefiting the working class, minorities and the poor.

The flight is “reallycounted” flag as Republican president Bush, with complete bipartisan support from Congress, readies the Pentagon war machine for terror attacks and worse against the people of those countries they claim “har­ bored” the terrorists. The last such “retalia­tion,” following the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, rained 80 cruise missiles down on Af­ ham and on a pharmaceuticals plant in Sudan. Previous to that, there was the all-out war against Iraq in 1991, a war which continues with regular U.S. bomb­ ing raids, while over one and a half million Iraqis have been killed by the UN starvation blockade. The capitalist media recalls “Pearl Harbor” in blaring head­ lines. But it was U.S. imperialism that was the first and only country in the world to use atomic weapons in the 1945 nuclear incineration of a quarter-million people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As communists in the belly of the imperialist beast, we fight to mobilize the working people here in opposition to the war aims and military adventures of the American rulers abroad. We stood for the military defense of Iraq against U.S. imperialism during the Gulf War and in the face of the subsequent terror bombing, and opposed the starvation blockade — an act of war — from the outset. Likewise, in the face of the U.S.-led NATO onslaught against Serbia two years ago, which destroyed the entire infrastructure of that country, we raised the banner: Defeat U.S. imperialism through workers revolution! Defend Serbia! In the case of both Iraq and Serbia, we said that it was the task of the workers of those countries to overthrow the bloody nationalist regimes that oppress them.

In the wake of the World Trade Center attack, various concocted “incidents” have been flying fast and furious in the bourgeois media. Stories that the plane which crashed in Pennsylvania was on its way to Camp David (how would they know?), that a bomb had been planted at the Jefferson Monument, that the military had shot down a plane over Washington, D.C. — all vanished almost as soon as they were invented. This is standard imperialist war propaganda, just like the manufactured Gulf of Tonkin incident which the U.S. used to escalate its war against Vietnam, killing three million Vietnamese before the heroic workers and peasants of that country defeated the American behemoth.

The attack on the World Trade Center has been attributed to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic groups like Hamas, the Afghan Taliban government and Osama bin Laden. All have vehemently denied any responsibility. But even if it were bin Laden, now the all-purpose enemy of the workers of those countries to overthrow the bloody nationalist regimes that oppress them.

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The attack on the World Trade Center has been attributed to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic groups like Hamas, the Afghan Taliban government and Osama bin Laden. All have vehemently denied any responsibility. But even if it were bin Laden, now the all-purpose enemy of the workers of those countries to overthrow the bloody nationalist regimes that oppress them. But it is not simply the apparently ubiquitous and undifferentiable “enemy without” that they are gearing up to brutally repress. The capitalist rulers will also seize on the attack on the World Trade Center to dramatically increase the powers of their state — the cops, courts, prisons and armed forces — against the “enemy within.” In the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, Clinton’s Democratic Party administration enacted the “Omnibus Counterterrorism Act” under which immigrants and all “aliens” can be subjected to star chamber proceedings in secret trials without any charges even being presented. The Democrats, with the full support of the Republicans, also enacted the Effective Death Penalty Act greatly extending the number of crimes punishable by death.

This is not true only in the U.S. but in Western Europe where, for example, the French government has flooded the subsways with paramilitary police forces to terrorize those of North African and Near Eastern origin. More fundamen­ tally, the purpose is to intimidate and constrain the multiracial working class from any social struggle. To be sure, the bourgeoisie’s labor lieutenants in the AFL-CIO bureaucracy — who tie the workers to the parties of their exploiters, particularly the Democrats — do their utmost in this regard. But as the gap between the handful of filthy rich who profit from the increasingly brutal explo­itation of labor and the rest of the society grows exponentially, the rulers fear that even the spark of protest could provoke a social conflagration.
Genoa: witch hunt against anarchists serves imperialist rulers

We print below an article from Workers Vanguard no 763, 31 August 2001.

In the month since the murderous police attack on "anti-globalisation" protesters in Genoa which left at least one demonstrator—23-year-old Carlo Giuliani—dead, reports continue to emerge of the brutal state terrorism inflicted by the cops. While almost all of the 300 arrested in Genoa in mid-July have finally been released, up to 15 protesters remain imprisoned, in addition to those who are reportedly still missing, and some could well have met the same fate as did Giuliani. Challenges to the Italian system are clearly on the up, and the Genoa demonstrations, in a river near Padova. Meanwhile, those who were released face potentially serious criminal charges, including "aggravated violence" and "conspiracy to spy on anti-capitalists", and were reported the finding of the strangled corpse of a prominent woman elsewhere to honour and remember Carlo Giuliani. Among the demonstrators, the Italian government is trying to smoke them out of their hiding places.

Top Cop Schily.

On 20 August Berlin rally, demonstrations were held in cities throughout Europe and elsewhere to honour and remember Carlo Giuliani. The speakers at the podium agitated against the Black Bloc... police officers in Italy were accused of being anarchists. Among these anarchist organisations was only one that defended the anarchists: Spartakist.

A statement by a German anarchist autonomie on the Indymedia website described a late-July meeting in Berlin on the Black Bloc anarchists.

The meeting was organised by ostensible marxists. The speakers at the podium agitated against the Black Bloc... police officers in Italy were accused of being anarchists. Among these anarchist organisations was only one that the Black Bloc anarchists.

Following the 20 August Berlin rally, the German Indymedia site was filled with complaints from anarchists about how prominent Spartakist signs, chants and soapboxing speeches were at the protest. The "powerhungry vanguard" observed one anarchist, would not have "so dominated if 'we' had not been so few", noting he "did not see a single [anarchist] placard".

It is a telling statement that the anarchists who are the immediate target of state repression are politically disarmed in the face of this sinister witch hunt. Genoa provided a concrete and murderous demonstration of the highly organised and ruthless efficient forces of the bourgeois state. To prevail against that might requires an organised and disciplined vanguard party that can mobilise the power of the one class that can defeat the capitalist rule — the proletariat. Only such a working class party can organise the social power and objective interests to liberate mankind from oppression. The purpose of a revolutionary party is to liberate the proletariat with that understanding. That was a lesson learnt by the best elements of the anarchist movement in the aftermath of the 1917 Russian Revolution. Leading anarchists such as Victor Serge travelled to Soviet Russia to support the new workers state. In a letter to his French anarchist friends, he motivated the need for a Leninist party: "It is the revolutionary elite, powerfully organised, disciplining a crypto-revolutionary force, operating in a libertarian opposition to the Capitalist state. In the opposition to the gains achieved through the establishment of a planned economy, however bureaucratically mismanaged, that while the rest of the world is facing poverty and starvation, Cuba has a literacy rate of 99 per cent, an infant mortality rate that is less than 50 per 1000, and free health care. And the victory of imperialism-backed counterrevolution in China would have been impossible without the bondage of the past and reduce a population of 1.2 billion to abject poverty. Just look at the former Soviet Union, where the victory of capitalist counterrevolution has brought untold misery. A devastating measure of the effects of the destruction of the former workers state can be seen in the fact that life expectancy has dropped by ten years.

The imperialists' military and economic might is aimed at the destruction of those workers states that still exist. What stands in the way of their defence is the immediate target of state repression. What is needed is a party like that of Lenin and Trotsky's Bolsheviks which can organise the working people and oppressed with the prospect of a Leninist programme of trying to find "peaceful coexistence" with the imperialist powers that have undermined the gains of these revolutions and blocked the road to their extension internationally. We Trotskyists fight to defend and extend the enormous gains embodied in the socialist-continental economies, particularly through their extension to the imperialist centres. Continued on page 9.

Free all imprisoned protesters now! Smash imperialist butchers—workers to power worldwide!

Defend arrested Genoa protesters!

Donations for the defence of protesters arrested in Genoa are urgently needed. The following organisations are collecting funds for those still imprisoned and for many others facing charges carrying long prison sentences.

Send international money orders to: Genoa Legal Forum, Via Caffa no 3, 16129 Genoa, Italy or Rote Hilfe, PSC 32 55 37022 Göttingen, Germany.
From the first issue, dated July 2001.

Spartacist South Africa is the first issue of the newspaper of the South African section of the International Communist League (Fourth International). We seek to build a revolutionary workers movement that lead the Russian working class to the leadership of V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky that led the Russian working class to power in 1917. We fight for new October Revolutions as the precondition for an egalitarian socialist society in which those who labour rule. As a fighting propaganda group, we publish our polemical press as the main way to deepen, develop and expand the Leninist vanguard party.

In South Africa, we are at the epicentre of the AIDS pandemic. HIV/AIDS is spreading exponentially around the world, with the overwhelming majority of the 36 million people infected with the disease concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. The scope of the AIDS disaster threatens the survival of the human race. Those conditions in the cradle of mankind. We have therefore devoted this extraordinary first issue of Spartacist South Africa to the battles unfolding on the HIV/AIDS — an agonising and polarising social crisis that is tearing the country apart. In so doing, we lay bare the anti-working-class, anti-woman, anti-poor nature of the bourgeois-nationalist African National Congress-led capitalist government. This pamphlet brings together dispatches from South Africa with two other related articles, all of which were originally published in Workers Vanguard, the newspaper of the American section of the ICL. We seek to break the wall of silence surrounding AIDS, which threatens the most economically active sections of the population, the newly born and African women especially.

Every step of the search for any treatment for HIV/AIDS has been undermined by the profit-driven capitalist system and the backward, racist, anti-gay and anti-woman ideologies it spawns. People with AIDS are viciously stereotyped, ostracised and stigmatised. Because it is a sexually transmitted disease, the repressive taboos, guilt and shame over sex that subjugate women in the repressive bourgeois family play a key role in sabotaging any scientific approach to a cure for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). In Africa, like other parts of the so-called Third World, women often have very little control over their reproductive lives. How many children they have, or whether to have sex with a condom — many women have very little say over these matters. Rape and other forms of sexual violence are often used by husbands as weapons of intimidation.

Women and men who have talked openly about their HIV status are often ostracised and stigmatised. Being HIV-positive can make women and men targets for stigmatisation, discrimination and violence. In places where such acts are legally sanctioned, such as in some states of the United States, violence and murder are not uncommon. This problem is especially acute in South Africa, where women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

The AIDS epidemic underscores the irrationality and cruelty of capitalism and therefore research and treatment were ignored, despite the vast resources available to American capitalism. Today, even those privileged few with access to expensive anti-retroviral cocktails continue to endure diverse forms of social discrimination. At the same time, African racism denies access to existing treatments for the millions who are dying. The new cases among women in the U.S. and falling in line behind the reactionary crusade of the anti-gay bigots.

The pharmaceutical giants finally withdrew the lawsuit denying production of cheap anti-retrovirals under the pressure of international protests. The ANC-led capitalist government has refused to do anything to make the anti-AIDS drugs available. The ANC government withheld drugs like AZT and NVP from the desperately impoverished masses as mother-to-child transmission of the virus is daily adding to the toll of those dying who could be saved by even minimal access to these drugs. While the epidemic spreads, governments and international organisations of public health professionals mean little or nothing for the masses. In the early stages of the epidemic in America, AIDS was largely stigmatised as a "gay disease" and therefore research and development was ignored, despite the vast resources available to American capitalism.
WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

The Spartacus Youth Group (SVG) exists to intervene into social struggles as the student/youth auxiliary organisation of the Spartacist League, British section of the International Communist League (Fourth International). It is a transitional organisation where youth can train in Marxist politics, through study and active political intervention on the campuses and among workers and the oppressed. The only independent of the Spartacist League and fights alongside it on the basis of our common proletarian, revolutionary, internationalist programme — the programme of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky — for new revolutions like the Russian Revolution of October 1917.

If you agree with the programme below and want to fight for a socialist future free from capitalist exploitation and imperialist slaughter, join us!

JOIN THE SVG!

1. Mobilise youth and students behind the social power of the multiethnic working class! The trade union bureaucracy are “labour lieutenants of capital” — agents of the capitalist class within the workers movement — for a class struggle leadership of the unions! Picket lines mean don’t cross! For union-run minority job recruitment and training programmes! For union control of hiring! Jobs for all at union wages! Organise the unorganised! Down with multi-tier wages which pit younger and older workers against each other! No to New Deal “work for dole” schemes and all benefit crackdowns! Cops, screws and security guards out of the unions! Keep the capitalist government and courts out of the unions! For class struggle to smash the anti-union laws!

2. For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland! The existing tie between Northern Ireland — a sectarian, Orange statelet created by imperialist schemes and all — and the British state against imperialism and internal counterrevolution.

3. Full citizenship rights for all immigrants! Down with racist immigration laws! Shut down the government’s refugee detention centres! No deportations! Defend all victims of state repression: free Satpal Ram and Winston Silcott! The capitalist state is inherently racist. No reliance on the capitalist cops and courts! Ethnic minorities form a strategic part of the working class, not only are they at the forefront of class struggle here but they form a crucial bridge to the working class abroad. For mass trade union/migrant mobilisations to stop the fascists and race terrorists! Down with all laws! Fascist terror is not a question of free speech! Smash the NF/BNP/Combat 18!

4. The capitalist state — at its core consisting of the cops, courts, prisons and the standing army — is the executive committee of the ruling class, an instrument of organised violence by the capitalist class. Labour’s “peace” deal is a lie, based on military repression by maintaining these troops. We oppose any imperialist “peace deal”! No to the forced reunification of Ireland which would reverse the terms of oppression against Protestants! For the revolutionary overthrow of British imperialism, the Catholic clericalist state in the South and the Orange statelet in the North! For an Irish workers republic, part of a voluntary socialist federation of the British Isles!

5. For women’s liberation through socialist revolution! For free abortion on demand! For free, quality 24-hour child care! Equal pay for equal work! We oppose the privatisation of the NHS and welfare system! For free, quality health care for all! Down with reactionary age of consent laws! Government out of the bedroom: all forms of consenting sexual activity are private matters! Down with anti-gay Section 28 and all family values and anti-gay legislation! Full democratic rights for gays! Down with Labour’s reactionary witch hunt against so-called “sex offenders”! Down with all laws against “crimes” without victims — prostitution, consensual sex, drugs!

6. Abolish the monarchy, the House of Lords and other reactionary relics of the feudal system! For separation of church and state! Defend and develop the rights of religious freedom and persecution! Down with religious instruction and mysticism! Down with the licensing laws! Down with English chauvinism! For the right of self-determination for the Scottish and Welsh nations, including the right to independence! At the present time, we advocate common class struggle for workers in the British Isles. For a voluntary federation of workers republics in the British Isles!

7. For free quality education for all! No tuition fees! For an end to streaming! Keep religion out of schools! For open admissions with a state-paid living grant! Abolish the administration — the universities should be run by those who work and study there! Drive out the police and army recruiters off the campuses! For the right of people to be educated in the language of their choice!

8. Britain is an imperialist country in chronic capitalist decay. The British bourgeoisie, living off superprofits extracted from toilers around the world, is the main enemy of the working class in Britain! For the defeat of British imperialism through workers revolution! We oppose the European Union — not for national-chauvinist, protectionist reasons — but because it is an imperialist trade bloc, a vehicle for capitalist cooperation against all the working classes of Europe. Down with racist “Fortress Europe”! No to a European imperialist Rapid Reaction Force! All British/UN/NATO/OSCE troops out of the Balkans, East Timor and the Persian Gulf! Down with the terror bombing and the starvation blockade of Iraq! Imperialist troops out of Iraq! For the reunification of Ireland which would reverse the terms of oppression against the working class!

9. Defend the gains of the 1949 Chinese Revolution, which smashed the rule of landlords and capitalists, and collectively — the workers movement against the state of imperialist destruction.

10. The Labour government rules for racist British imperialism! Labour is the historic barrier to proletarian revolution in Britain, tying workers and the oppressed to the bourgeoisie. It is a bourgeois workers party, with a working-class base and a pro-capitalist leadership. We seek to split the working-class base away from these leaders. Break with Labour — Build a Bolshevik party! For the expropriation of the whole capitalist class and its state, for a dictatorship of the proletariat — the world workers and fuel national chauvinism. Down with the poison of discrimination! For a revolutionary, multi-ethnic workers party that fights for socialist revolution! Look to the example of the heroic, Bolshevik-led workers of 1917 Russia! For new October revolutions! For the international dictatorship of the proletariat!

Join the Spartacus Youth Group!
Racism...

(Continued from page 3)

obstacle to revolutionary consciousness among the working class in this country. They will therefore play a role in the revolutionary party which is out of proportion to their size in the workers movement. The Socialist League fights to build the multiracial revolutionary workers party which is essential for revolution. It will be built by splitting Labour, a bourgeois and fascist party, and winning the working class to a revolutionary programme.

SWP whitewashes Labour

In the midst of an hysterical media blitz blaming Bradford's Asians for the "worst rioting for 20 years", Blair endorsed the policies and fascist propaganda, which was demanding Asians for "simple thugs". Home secretary David Blunkett said this is "simply a law and order issue", meaning there's no racism on the part of the cops and fascists. Asian Xpress (12 July) excoriated Blair — an article headed "Blair’s Britain" showed riot police attacking Asian youth and permanently asked: "So Prime Minister, you think this is simply a 'law and order' issue?" It pointed out that "while Asians are branded thugs by the so-called leader that so many of them voted for, the NF terrorists behind this summer of discontent are described by the PM as merely the 'far right'" (12 July).

Shahid Malik, an Asian member of the Labour Party National Executive Committee, was brutally pointed out that "there's no racism on the part of the cops — the capitalists and the working class, and these classes have irreconcilable interests. The bourgeois state exists to enforce the rule of the capitalist class.

For a multiracial revolutionary workers party!

Bradford has always been a battle-ground for Britain's Asian populations. Who arrived there during labour shortages in the textile mills of Northern England after World War II. With the world capitalist recession (and under a Labour Government) in the 1970s the fascists organised large marches in Oldham when mills started to close. Then as now, Labour tightened the immigration laws; they grotesquely introduced "asylum" tests for Asian women at British airports.

In Britain as a whole, more than 100,000 jobs have been cut in the manufacturing sector since the start of the year, most of which will never be replaced. Workers of Pakistani and Bangladesh origin are among the poorest in Britain, many of whom have no hope of finding decent jobs. In Bradford, Asians (the majority of whom are of Pakistani origin) make up 20 per cent of the population. In the area around Bradford (Yorkshire and Humber) 10,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the year to March 2001. On 3 August, when 200 textile workers in Bradford were laid off, spinner Zafer Hussain said: "I've worked in textiles for a long time and as each mill has closed, I've moved on to the next. Now that this one has gone, I think that the industry is finished in Bradford — there are no more mills any more." (Morning Star, 4 August).

The main form of national representation in this country is the workplace despite de-industrialisation. British blacks, Asians and others are more heavily represented in the trade unions than their weight in the population would suggest. The workforce is integrated in the car plants of the West Midlands, London and Dagenham, the railway and transport system in every major city, London Underground as well as hospitals. These jobs are increasingly at risk and the trade union bureaucracy have been selling jobs down the river, telling workers their only option is to pressure Labour. This is simply a law and order issue; there's no racism on the part of the cops — the capitalists and the working class, and these classes have irreconcilable interests. The bourgeois state exists to enforce the rule of the capitalist class.

call on the police and the state to take action against the fascists. An ANL leaflet (for the 1 September Burnley Carnival) says:

"The 500-strong Ani Nazi League meeting held on 28 June agreed we need to stop BNP Nazis spreading their race hatred, and stop them operating in Burnley by shutting down their headquarters. We call on the borough council and home secretary David Blunkett to use whatever legal or political means necessary to do this."

Marxists understand that all calls on the capitalist state to act against the fascists are suicidal. Indeed state bans, if enforced, are primarily used against the left as they have been most recently against the ANL. Any party that sees a vote for the fascists as their immediate concern is simply a 'law and order' party, which is out of the question. The SWP (the Trotskyist Socialist League) have joined with the Socialist Workers Party to sponsor a 20 year anti-fascist mobilisation in Wellington. London. Dublin. Box 1041, London NW3 3EU

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Attack...  
(Continued from page 4) ing to build up their forces of domestic repression, which they have long de­ployed against the hideously oppressed ghetto and barrio masses, is crucial to maintaining their class rule.

With the counterrevolutionary de­struction of the former Soviet Union, a workers state which however bureaucratically degenerated did represent an alter­native to capitalist exploitation and oppres­sion, the U.S. boasted of being the "world's only superpower" and the American imperialist rulers thought they would face no challenge as they run roughshod over the rest of the world. It

within by the working class in the U.S., which includes large numbers of black, Latino and increasingly immigrant workers from the Near East, the Indian subcontinent and East Asia.

The psalmodian reformist "left" in this country, particularly typified by the International Socialistic Organization (ISO), now points a finger at the Ameri­can rulers' support to bin Laden and the Afghan Taliban as "freedom fighters" during the Cold War. Left unsaid is the ISO's own support for these reactionaries against the Soviet Red Army. In Europe, the groups that were once called the "far left" long ago sold themselves down the river for the bourgeoisie. For them, railing against American imperialism as the "main en­emy" is simply an alibi for their fealty to the social-democratic governments that were installed to carry out massive au­tocracy against the working class.

In the neocolonial countries, where the masses of people are confronted with the complete bankruptcy of petty-bourgeois nationalism, there has been a growth of religious obscurantism, particu­larly Islam. In the face of the armed

Witch hunt...  
(Continued from page 5) Achieving that aim requires a proletarian political revolution to end the Stalinist misrule that sit atop the deformed workers state which however bureaucrat­isation of the former RC leadership, dem­onstrated that they are nothing but the reformist Bertinotti leadership, demo­cratic nationalism, there has been a

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This is the new imperialist "wicked doctrine" that the West has sought to rally the population, and they aim to use the attack on the World Trade Center for furthering public support for their imperialist terror abroad, fostering the lie that the working people of the U.S. have a common interest with their capitalist exploiters. We say: U.S. impe­rialism hands off the world! The main enemy is at home! Our purpose is to build the proletarian, internationalist, revolutionary party that will infuse the working class with the understanding of its social power and historic interests as the gravdigger of U.S. imperialism.

Spartacists protest Labour's 1998 terror attack on Iraq.

In the aftermath of capitalist counter­revolution in the Soviet Union, the American imperialist rulers have sought to find a surrogate for the war against "godless Communism" in the spectre of "Islamic terrorism." This is the new external target which the West has sought to rally to the population, and they aim to use the attack on the World Trade Center for furthering public support for their imperialist terror abroad, fostering the lie that the working people of the U.S. have a common interest with their capitalist exploiters. We say: U.S. impe­rialism hands off the world! The main enemy is at home! Our purpose is to build the proletarian, internationalist, revolutionary party that will infuse the working class with the understanding of its social power and historic interests as the gravdigger of U.S. imperialism.

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nation and racist oppression is not based on a struggle, but on the repres­sive machine of the capitalist state that defends it. No amount of pressure, prayers or threats can change it. The workers revolution, overthrowing the bourgeoisie, is the only solution to the needs of the working masses. The working class has the social

by 'subversive' and 'violent' anar­chists and the Black Bloc. They are run­ning a propaganda campaign to criminalise the Black Bloc by saying they are all fas­sists or cops. As for Casarini, he likes to make himself against parties and van­guardists, but he is actually a member of the Green party, the "brescia" bomb-throwers of Kosovo. And the Tute Bianche have even attacked some anarchists in Venice who were collecting money in support of the arrested.

"Those who attack the symbols of capital­ist exploitation have their hearts in the right place; and such acts of anger and frustration against oppression are per­fectly understandable. But the anarchists themselves have no programme of any sort to overthrow the capitalist sys­tem. The working class has the social power to do it.

"These struggles must not be channelled into support for yet another capitalist government including DS [Democratic Left] and RC. What we need is a revolutionary workers party. Smash the imperialist butchers through workers revolution. Workers to power throughout the world!!"

AUTUMN 2001
the workings of the capitalist system. To do away with imperialist exploitation requires a political mobilisation of the proletariat in a thoroughgoing socialist revolution. The large workers contingents on the streets of Genoa in solidarity with the anarchist youth against the state, and also in defence of immigrant rights, point to the potential for realising this revolutionary perspective. But it is

necessary to combat the obstacles that stand in the way: the trade-union bureaucracies and the reformist political parties, which currently govern many of the Western European states and elsewhere, as well as the false, anti-proletarian consciousness of the anarchist youth. The International Communist League fights for the authentic communism of Lenin and Trotsky’s Bolsheviks. Our perspective is proletarian, revolutionary and internationalist. We recognise that the fundamental conflict in society is the struggle between labour and capital. Because of its central role in production, the proletariat has the social power to bring down the capitalist exploiters and their whole system of racism, sexism, class exploitation, national oppression and imperialist war. The proletariat has the power and the class interest to create a society based on collectivised property and a rational, planned international economy, a workers state leading to a classless, communist society and the withering away of the state. This goal requires the construction of an international Leninist-Trotskyist egalitarian party. We struggle to become the party fit to lead social revolutions internationally.

Genoa...

(Continued from page 12)

In Genoa, while world’s working masses face exploitation and poverty. On 21 July, workers poured into the streets in defiance of the repression of both leaders and the DS-dominated union officials, as did many RC members. Thousands of metal workers, not only from the CGIL-affiliated FIOM but also from the more “moderate” CISL and UIL union federations, joined hands with the protesters against the police. There was a lot of anger, and whenever a police helicopter circled overhead there were chants of “Assassini, assassini!” and a protest attack the middle of the demonstration, cutting off the RC and

trade-union contingents, which came under heavy attack and a constant barrage of tear gas. Demonstrators seeking refuge or trying to find their way back to their homes were hounded down by police squads whose orders were clearly to injure as many as possible. In one case, a youth was seized by police, dragged away and beaten. He then fell ten feet into the riverbed. When he managed to scramble up, the police shot him with a tear gas canister at point-blank range, he was saved only by the intervention of other protesters.

State of siege in Genoa

When our comrades arrived in Genoa on 18 July, they found a ghost town. An inner “red zone” four kilometres long was completely encircled by a 12-foot-high metal barrier. Police within the red zone carried out continuous searches of apartments and harassment of the heavily immigrant population. Reports of letter bombs and attempted bombings were reported. Even “Bolzaneto barracks were transformed into a “lager”[concentration camp] by the Mobile Operation Group (GOM), with scores of demonstrators locked up behind barbed wire. The government has surely galvanised the cops, many of whom are genuine fascists. But the reformist militants’ denunciations of this right-wing parliamentary government as fascist are in the service of building support for a new popular front “to fight the right”. In fact, the kind of brutal repression seen in Genoa is part of the normal functioning of capitalist “democracy”. In the years following the revolutionary upheavals of the “Hot Autumn” of 1969, the cops turned on the Popolari and Radio Popolare, just as DS and RC now rail against “anarchists”, their Communist Party prede­cessors. The same sought to use a “violent fringe”, thus helping to restabilise the bourgeois order.

The reformist leaders used the upsurge of workers struggles that brought down the previous Berlusconi government in 1994 to usher in a series of popular-front governments, bringing together D’Alema’s DS and openly bourgeois forces, generally propped up by RC. This bloody cabal of fake “socialists” and ex-communists presided over an Italian imperialist participation in the US-led 1999 Balkans War. And it was their very governments that organised the arrangements for the G8 summit.

Demonstration for RC in particular as a “lesser evil” is evident within the syndicalist-influenced COBAS unions as well. This is not surprising. COBAS leader Carlo Pucchini echoed the reformists in insinuating that the Black Block anarchists are a tool of the cops. While RC leaders “progressive” cops who denounced the government’s actions in Genoa, one of the COBAS unions itself has a base among municipal cops and also organises prison guards. In welcome­ng the hired thugs of the class enemy into the ranks of labour, the COBAS leaders demonstrate their own complicity in the capitalist state.

What’s needed is a new, revolutionary
leadership of the working class, a tribunal of the people and fighter on behalf of all the workers and peasants in the world. The proletariat are the class that overcomes this impasse with the class-collaborationist politicians pushed by those who, in the name of a “lesser evil”, subordinate the vital interests of the proletariat to the demands of the capitalist exploiters and oppressors. It’s necessary to forge a revolutionary workers’ movement that not only serves up the workers government through socialist revolution against the entire capitalist system.

“Left” fingermen for the world bourgeoisie

In the wake of the Genoa events, there has been a furious outcry internationally—not against the evident, widespread, murderous violence perpetrated by the cops but against the “violence” of anarchist and other leftist policemen. Going into Genoa, Blair urged Berlusconi and other capitalist rulers “to be a lot more robust” in cracking down on protesters, while German Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder screamed for responding to “violent” protest “decisively and with full force”. Positively dancing in the grave of Carlo Giuliani, Blair admonished any who criticised “the Italian authorities for working to make sure the summit is right”, while his cabinet member Peter Hain, a former “peace” campaigner, rallied against “balaclava-clad demonstrators there to basically trash the place and bust a skull.”

Sections of the ICL around the world participated in or initiated protests against the bloody repression in Genoa and in solidarity with the anarchist youth under attack. Blake’s article “Left or right?” of July 28 noted that “the police had been taking their cue from the Italian democrats who helped install in power, spot on even the most elementary expression of solidarity with that and the fascist capitalists state and joined in the crescendo of attacks against the anarchist Black Block.” In Britain, the Cliftffe Socialist Workers Party (SWP) attacked the Black Block’s actions as “very different from people who defend themselves against police attacks” (Socialist Worker, 28 July). In another article in the same issue, SWP honcho Chris Harman favourably quoted the same article, saying: “The police could have chosen to deal with the penetration of the anarchists.”

This despicable line was echoed by the German group ICL/G, which includes Cliftffe members and of Alain Krivine’s Ligue communiste revolutionnaire (LCR). Their pamphlet, The nearest approximation of the United Secretariat (USec). A 20 July ATTAC statement criticised the Italian police as those who “deliberately closed their eyes to the preparation and arming of several hundred provocateur elements of the so-called Black Block”. In Germany, Evelin Kleine of a leading member of the Editorial Board of the USec-connected paper Soz favourably quoted the following in a rant in the Wall Street Journal (23 July). “The black of this Black Block was the black of the fascists, not the black of the anarchists.”

As organisations of the “anti-globalisation” movement that is being attacked by the governments they support, these groups are as culpable as the police.”

Italian riot police attack Genoa protesters. Fake lefts have joined in with hunt against anarchist militants facing state repression.

This pamphlet reprints a series originally published in Workers Vanguard. It presents a comprehensive historical analysis of the origins of anarchism and the views of leading figures through the 1871 Paris Commune and the split in the First International. Later articles discuss the pre-World War I period and the impact of the war, the 1917 October Revolution and the formation of the Communist International on the anarchist and syndicalist movements. The first article addresses radical youth today, who, in an ideological climate conditioned by the so-called “death of communism”, are drawn to all variants of anarchism, Green radicalism and left libertarianism. There is a call to build a new generation to revolutionary action, the continuation of Lenin and Trotsky’s Bolshevik Party.

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MILANO, 30 July — As the imperialist rulers met in palatial surroundings at the Group of 8 (G8) summit in Genoa (Genova), the rest of the city was subjected to one of the biggest "security" build-ups in Italy since the downfall of Mussolini’s fascist regime and the end of World War II. Cops killed at least one young protester in cold blood on 20 July and carried out repeated rampages against thousands of others. On Saturday, 21 July, after the "anti-globalisation" demonstrations in Genoa had come to an end, the police staged Gestapo-style raids in the dark of night against a number of protest headquarters, including the Genoa Social Forum (GSF), smashing into sleeping protesters with their night-sticks and leaving the floors and walls spattered with blood.

At least 49 people remain under arrest. Hundreds more were tortured by cops screaming fascist slogans, while for days political police prowled the hotels looking to round up those who were injured. Initial reports of a second demonstrator, a young woman, killed by the cops have been utterly buried by the bourgeois media. But with dozens still reported as "missing," there is no way of knowing how many protesters may actually be dead. Il Manifesto (25 July) reported that a doctor had told Rifondazione Comunista (RC) parliamentarians that a young woman named Lisa had been killed. It also reported that a protester in Alessandria Prison "had seen a woman being shot in the throat with a tear gas canister, fall down and get hit by a police jeep," adding that he was "sure she was dead." A subsequent article reported that "hundreds of people were still missing," and that some cops appeared to be real Gestapos because "evidence of beatings on their bodies was too serious and too visible" to let them be seen in public (Il Manifesto, 28 July).

The outrage provoked by the massive police repression in Genova has created a sharp polarisation within Italian society. The day after the killing of 23-year-old Carlo Giuliani, who joined in the Saturday demonstration and with marchers in the syndicalist-influenced COBAS union contingents, "When is the strike?" one FIOM worker asked. Another said that we’re absolutely right in saying that the bullets that struck down Carlo Giuliani were directed against the working class. Workers listened attentively as one of our comrades leafletting the union contingents, "What will we have after Berlusconi?" This struggle must not end in another five years of capitalist popular-front government. We should fight for workers power and for socialist revolution!"

Genoa draws a blood line

The massive and murderous police repression in Genova was on a level usually seen in the suppression of working-class upheavals or popular insurgencies in the neocolonial "Third World." Yet here it was directed at a protest movement which does not in any immediate and direct way threaten the material interests of the Western imperialist bourgeoisies. Behind the bloody crackdown on the streets and the hysterical uproar over "anarchist hooligans" lies the climate created by capitalist counter-revolution in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Drunk with glee over the "death of communism," the capitalists and their social-democratic lap dogs imagined that there would no longer be left-wing tendencies that rejected the ultimate authority of bourgeois parliamentary rule.

This re-emergence of anarchism as a militant and growing current among young radicals was an unexpected as well as repellant development for Western European ruling circles, especially for the social democrats, who regarded their political/ideological victory over Communism as final and irrevocable.

In their eyes, the very existence of a militant anarchist movement is a crime against the natural (i.e. bourgeois) order. Internationally, the most bloodythirsty defence of the repression in Genova came from social-democratic rulers like Labour prime minister Tony Blair. Echoing the imperialist butchers were the reformist organisers of the mainstream "anti-globalisation" protests, who denounced the cops for not being hard enough against "violent" protesters or smeared the anarchist youth as "provocateurs."

In the wake of Genova, there is now a clear left-right division — written in blood — within the "anti-globalisation" movement. That division is not primarily over protest tactics, or "violence" versus "nonviolence". Rather, at root what is at issue is the question of the "democratic" legitimacy of the existing parliamentary capitalist governments. On that question, we stand with the anarchists against the left social democrats, including those who occasionally masquerade as Marxists or Trotskyists. Having capitulated to their own bourgeoisies from the Cold War against the Soviet Union in the 1980s to the 1999 US/NATO war against Serbia, these pseudo-Marxists take their stand with the capitalist state.

The question before the huge numbers of young radicals who have been drawn to the "anti-globalisation" protests of recent years is: how do you change the world? While the protests have succeeded in forcing the imperialists to schedule future meetings in isolated backwaters, this does nothing to impede continued on page 10

Blood and bullets in Genoa

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