Mass Upheaval Deepens, Berlin Wall Opened

For Political Revolution in East Germany!

After decades of enforced “peace and order,” during which contradictions accumulated under the heavy-handed rule of East Europe’s seemingly most entrenched Stalinist regime, this fall the lid finally blew off the East German pressure cooker. Beginning in August, tens of thousands of youth streamed west, first through Hungary, then Czechoslovakia and Poland. The 40th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic (DDR) in October was met with mass opposition demonstrations that escalated week by week. Hundreds of thousands marched in Leipzig and then up to a million in East Berlin. In order to head off the protests, ailing DDR chief Erich Honecker was ousted and replaced by his former protégé Egon Krenz. When this didn’t stop the protests, the cabinet resigned en masse, followed by the Politburo. In a desperate effort to get a step ahead of events, continued on page 9

Workers Soviets Must Rule in All Germany!

For a Leninist-Trotskyist Workers Party!

We print below the text of the statement issued by the Trotzkistische Liga Deutschlands, German section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalists), 200,000 copies of which are now being distributed in Berlin.

Workers throughout the world seeking the rebirth of genuine communism are watching the dramatic events in East Germany. “Russia was the spark—Germany will be the flame,” proclaimed a banner, a slogan from the KPD of the ’20s, in the massive November 4 East Berlin demonstration. The developments in the DDR [German Democratic Republic] pose pointblank proletarian political... continued on page 8

For the Communism of Lenin, Luxemburg and Liebknecht!
Anti-Abortion "Socialists"

October 19, 1989

To the Editor:

Under the banner of "Church and Family," religious bigots are using the emotionally charged abortion issue as part of a general program of social reaction to reverse all the gains of the Enlightenment. From the death penalty speedway to Central America to the "pro-life" movement in the West, the program is one of moral and social reaction. The Vatican has led the way, inspiring the "independent" heteroerotic art of Robert Mapplethorpe, the reactionaries of the "homosexual panic" to destroy not just a woman's (already enfeebled) right to abortion but a whole range of cultural advances in civilization.

The barricades in the abortion rights fight should be raised high. Women are not the problem. The problem is that the government, corporate clients, and the neo-Nazi church are afraid that a woman should not be forced to stay pregnant against her will by a church, state or family. Feminist anti-choice "forces," however, due to cover as the anti-abortion gangsters start shooting by granting the "pro-family," "pro-religious values" terms of debate to their opponents.

The National Organization for Women, for example, which regards women as a "special interest" pressure group on the Democratic Party, doesn't want to alienate anti-abortion "pro-choice" Democrats. Thus, like New York's Catholic governor Mario Cuomo. In line with this bourgeois viewpoint, NOW failed to protect the cuts in Medicaid funding for abortions in 1976, which mainly affected poor, black women rather than white, middle-class base.

Recent Planned Parenthood fund-raising ads also shamelessly pandering to the morality police. A woman should not be forced to stay pregnant against her will by a church, state or family. Feminist anti-choice "forces," however, due to cover as the anti-abortion gangsters start shooting by granting the "pro-family," "pro-religious values" terms of debate to their opponents.

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TROTSKY

For Soviet Power in Germany!

In November 1918 the war-weary German masses rose up, toppling the Kaiser, and forming workers and soldiers councils (soviets). The new Social Democratic government of Ibaken and Schmidt wished to maintain the capitalist-imperialist order in the name of "democracy" (bourgeois parliamentarianism). The Spartacists, led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg called for a soviet government allied to Bolshevik Russia. The Social Democratic regime and the military high command crushed the Spartacist uprising in January 1919, utilizing the Freikorps fascists who then murdered Liebknecht and Luxembourg.

In the sequel, the heaving of the German proletarian vanguard—the absence of a hardened, tested communist party like Lenin's Bolsheviks to lead the mighty German workers movement to power—proved critical for Europe and the whole world. The German revolution of 1923 was defeated, leaving Soviet Russia isolated and prey to Stalin's Thermidor, while the terrified German bourgeoisie turned to Hitler's fascists in a desperate attempt to restore the capitalist-imperialist order. Comintern into an instrument of betrayal for anti-revolutionary gangsters like Stalin (and epigones like Walter Ulbricht) who murdered communists while refusing to fight the victorious Russian revolution.

This quotation is taken from Liebknecht's speech to a mass demonstration in Berlin in mid-December 1918:

Comrades, fellow soldiers, and friends. Today, when the first Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils assembles, is a historic moment.

The first task facing the congress is to defend the revolution and defeat the counterrevolution by disarming all generals and officers, abolishing the previously existing military authority, forming a Red Guard to complete the social revolution, disarming all generals and officers, abolishing the previously existing military authority, forming a Red Guard to complete the social revolution.

The German revolution of 1918, 1919, 1920 was defeated, leaving Soviet Russia isolated and prey to Stalin's Thermidor. Well, I don't know what state Hitchens proposes to the French administration. The Catholic Church—"the old order"—opposed Myrdal's recommendation of "child labor" and "compulsory attendance in schools for children with children, combined with a complete ban on abortions except for medical reasons, birth control, and other Spartacist literature.

To this end Myrdal recommended a law, only narrowly defeated, that would require a woman who was considering an abortion to watch a slide show featuring pictures of dead children from Nazi concentration camps. Hitchens might wish to reflect on the past history of the idea that "society," "the nation," or "the state" has a right to use women as "breeders." Hitchens is not the first social democrat to combine anti-abortion laws with welfare reforms. Alva Myrdal, an influence to the Swedish Social Democratic government in the 1930s, proposed the "Russian family ideology of the 1920's" and the "individual radicalism of the Russian abortion laws of the 1920's" in an effort to promote "increased aggregate fertility...and improved quality of the population stock" in Sweden (Myrdal, Nation and Family, p. 137). To this end Myrdal recommended a ban on abortions, even for medical reasons, birth control, and other Spartacist literature.

Washington, D.C.—Spartacists joined 400 abortion rights defenders at the 48th Annual Women's March on Washington, November 11. Early that morning, cops ordered NOW/NARAL "clinic escorts" away from the door, allowing "Operation Rescue" anti-abortion bigots to rush in and block access, after which police shot a teenager turned away from the clinic. The abortion bill RU 486, which would eliminate the need for many hospital abortions and give women greater sexual autonomy, shows that the anti-abortion movement is really anti-women. Given its religious motivation, any actual anti-abortion social movement in America exists here rather than the pages of the Nation would also be against sex education and health care.

We should also place the current anti-abortion mobilization in historical perspective. The Nazi Party in 1934 banned abortions for all "Aryan" women, on the grounds that women owed a duty to "the Aryan nation" to breed as many German as possible.

The clerical-fascist Moïr Kahane (aka Mike King) calls abortions among Jewish women the "Second Holocaust," because he thinks Jewish women owe it to "the Jewish people" to make enough babies to replace those murdered by the Nazis. The Begin administration in Israel proposed a law, only narrowly defeated, that would require a woman who was considering an abortion to watch a slide show featuring pictures of dead children from Nazi concentration camps. Hitchens might wish to reflect on the past history of the idea that "society," "the nation," or "the state" has a right to use women as "breeders." Hitchens is not the first social democrat to combine anti-abortion laws with welfare reforms. Alva Myrdal, an influence to the Swedish Social Democratic government in the 1930s, proposed the "Russian family ideology of the 1920's" and the "individual radicalism of the Russian abortion laws of the 1920's" in an effort to promote "increased aggregate fertility...and improved quality of the population stock" in Sweden (Myrdal, Nation and Family). To this end Myrdal recommended a ban on abortions, even for medical reasons, birth control, and other Spartacist literature.
Black Mayor Elected in New York, Barely

The headquarters city of U.S. imperialism will soon have its first black mayor. On November 7, David Dinkins, the third black Democrat to become mayor of New York City, won a jubilant, integrated election-night crowd. Dinkins thanked the “gorgeous mosaic” of New Yorkers for his victory. Across town there was an orchestrated backlash rally: a battalion of Giuliani’s own lily-white supporters wouldn’t let their Great White Hope concede and holstered “No!” as he preached his obligatory unity calls. As one observer 90 percent of the black vote, two-thirds of the Hispanic vote and about 30 percent of the white. But in a city where Dinkins outpolled his Republican opponent, his margin of victory was barely two percentage points, the lowest since 1914. Poll results released just the day before the election had Dinkins winning by 14 to 18 points. But when it came down to it, tens of thousands of whites who said they would vote for Dinkins wouldn’t pull the lever for a black man. They even lied coming out of the voting booth.---New York Times/CBS News exit poll had Dinkins up by as much as 15 points. In the end, nearly nine out of ten Giuliani supporters were white, and he carried office in the wake of the 1960s ghetto explosions, precisely to cool the ghetto with the promise of change through putting in a few “black faces in high places.” Elected in predominantly black cities like Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Detroit, politicians like Marion Barry, Coleman Young and Andrew Young had come to prominence in the civil rights movement. With their electoral strategy based on more than 60 percent of the Jewish vote, despite its being traditionally solidly Democratic. It was precisely to pull a racist vote from Jews that borscht belt bigot Jackie Mason was brought in as Giuliani’s honorary campaign chairman. No mere fop mouth, Jackie Mason is a supporter of the Zionist fascist Meni Kahane who wants to send the Palestinians to extermination camps. The Village Voice blew Mason out of the water by quoting him spouting racist filth such as telling Giuliani supporters during a fund-raising lunch at the Plaza Hotel, “There is a sick Jewish problem of voting for a black man no matter how unfit he is for the job.” It later came out, Mason had called Dinkins “a fancy schwarze with a mustache” — a racist term for blacks — in favor of white candidates. Giuliani joined in the laughter and Newsweek sat on the story.

“Second Generation Moderates”

On November 7, black candidates won five major races where black voters were in the minority. In Seattle, New Haven, Cleveland and Durham, North Carolina, black Democrats were elected in mayors. The question of abortion was a big issue in a number of contests, from Virginia to New York and even New Jersey’s foul gubernatorial race. In Virginia, Democrat Douglas Wilder became the first elected black governor in U.S. history, in a Southern state with a small black population, by focusing on his opponent’s anti-abortion stance. Dinkins stressed his “pro-choice” stand and even Giuliani shifted away from his long-standing opposition to abortion, claiming his position was the same as Dinkins, but nobody believed it. Wilder’s campaign, according to the leading financial organ of American capitalism, “stressed his mainstream appeal to white voters,” talking about “economic development, not economic empowerment” and avoiding racial issues. The victory of these “second generation” moderates does signal a new strategy in black bourgeois politics. The “first generation” of black mayors were installed pulling out an overwhelming black vote, they had to at least give lip service to black concerns, the better to co-opt them. But this “new generation” doesn’t disturb the “comfort factor” like Jesse Jackson who goes around walking picket lines, hugging Yassir Arafat and telling blacks “our time has come.” Thus Douglas Wilder is for the anti-union “right to work” laws, which won him big business support. Many Virginia voters didn’t even know Wilder was black, and he certainly never let on. Campaigning in the “white flight” suburbs of northern Virginia, Wilder declared he was against statehood for the District of Columbia, the 70 percent black capital whose citizens are still disenfranchised.

“They’ll Take It From Me”

On October 29, the New York Times endorsed Dinkins for mayor, frankly laying out the rules-class rationale: “The next mayor will have to ask for, and sell, sacrifice to all New Yorkers, most notably the poor citizens hurt most by reductions in city services. Mr. Dinkins seems better qualified to persuade all New Yorkers to share the burdens ahead.”

In January, David Dinkins will become the mayor of a city where one in four is officially below the poverty line, where conservative estimates put the number of homeless at 90,000. Less than half the kids now in public schools will get a high school diploma. The NYC health system no longer guarantees rooms in its emergency wards. Those wards are in permanent trauma, due to the epidemic of AIDS, drugs, and “diseases of poverty” such as tuberculosis, once nearly eradicated. And every day the city’s continued on page 12

Partisan Defense Committee Benefits

Holiday Appeal for Class-War Prisoners

Come to a Fundraising Party!

- Music • Dancing • Food

Sunday December 3
5 to 10 p.m.
Hudson Guild
441 West 28th St.
For Information: (212) 406-4262

NEW YORK

Sunday December 10
1 to 4 p.m.
The Firehouse
Fort Mason Center
Marina at Laguna
For Information: (415) 639-2862

SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday December 3
3 to 7 p.m.
The Party Room
1212 S. Michigan Ave.
For Information: (312) 953-0715

CHICAGO
SAN FRANCISCO—In our article “Freyway Death Trap—A Capitalist Crime” (WV No. 488, 26 October) we detailed the criminality which led to the collapse of the Nimitz freeway and the deaths of dozens of people in the October 17 Bay Area earthquake. The criminality continues in the treatment of some 14,000 made homeless by the quake. Official relief efforts have been so blatant in their racist arrogance and class bias that one local newspaper headlined its teaching comments, “A Tale of Two Cities.” “While quake victi­ims in other neighborhoods went hungry for the week,” reported the English-language Japanese American Hokubai Mainichi (26 October), “Marina residents were well fed, we met pizza, mineral water and fresh strawberries.”

These casual ‘homeless’ suppiles of the largely white and wealthy Marina district have been pampered with every­thing from free car wash and oyster fry to fire massaeus. But less than a week after the quake, more than a thousand people who had taken refuge in Mosque Con­vention Center were booted out and bused over to the Presidio army base and other class slums. Others they were then subjected to body searches. One Marine at the ship said, “I thought we were going to be heroes, but here we are acting like prison wardens” (San Francisco Examiner, 29 October). People deemed to be “pre-quake home­less” face eviction from shelters set up in schools by the Red Cross, as do some 2,500 people in Alameda County, many from condemned residential ho­tels in Oakland, made homeless by the quake. The residents of black West Oak­land, whose valor saved most of the peo­ple who were pulled out alive from under the rubble of the collapsed freeway, are being punished for their heroic efforts. When they rushed out of their homes to rescue survivors, they were denounced as “booters” by cops with drawn guns. Then they were thrown out of their houses; some told how cops threatened to arrest them if they were not out of their homes in five minutes. On October 22, 100 homes had their power shut off by Caltrans (Depart­ment of Transportation) and Pacific Gas and Electric without notice. Penni­less residents watched the inhumane working-class and minority families. A local FEMA official decreed that to qualify for assistance it must be proved to verify that you were a victim living in tran­sient accommodations, and you were then told to prove it. “Your ‘papers’ aren’t in good order, you can starve in the streets. Meanwhile, FEMA has been providing working-class avail­able army barracks or mobile homes in Oakland and Watsonville (where thou­sands prevented by their poverty or the absence of available barracks) to far­mers lost their homes). Then again, the only ‘emergency’ the highly secrecy-bound FEMA is a dependency image is the establishment of martial law.

When the poor of France demanded bread, the bourgeoisie contemptuously replied, “Let them eat cake.” The vicious and arrogant Ameri­can bourgeoisie too (are then) the his­torical fate as the decadent nobility which was swept away by the French Revolution. ■

**Watsonville Homeless: Seize the Empty Condos!**

In the aftermath of the October 17 earthquake that struck the Bay Area, we reported on the disastrous situation fac­ing the heavily Mexican and Chicano working-class town of Watsonville, looking for ways our oppressed people could make the epicenter. Now it’s commonplace even in the bourgeois press to note that while the posh Marina district of San Francisco grabbed all the attention, and most of the resources, black and Latino areas have been ignored. Hardest hit by the quake, Watsonville has also been hit hardest by the government’s racist clean-up efforts.

But the thousands of agricultural workers in this area have a history of militant class struggle. Three years ago, predominantly Latino women workers in the frozen food packaging plants, organized in Teamsters Local 912, waged a bitter 18-month strike against an attempt by the agriculture barons to crush their union. Last month, nearby Salinas was the center of a hard strike by Teamsters and agricultural workers against the Bud company, the largest lettuce grower in the country. Now Watsonville earthquake victims are or­ganizing against vindictive federal and local government efforts to bury their plight and drive them out.

Even before the quake put some 2,000 to 3,000 people on the streets, many Watsonville families were doubled up paying $400 a month to live in vermin­infested gardens. City officials, intent on turning the houses into a “room sub­room” for Silicon Valley yuppies, seized on the quake devastation to force out the families and push them entirely. While homes in wealthier areas were given green tags meaning that they could stay, the families of Watsonville were red-tagged for the wrecker’s ball. As Alexander Cockburn observed in the Nation (29 October), “the oft-repeated observant citizens there seemed to be a politically coherent pattern to city

**Marina’s “new home” employees paraded while poor, blacks and Hispanics get the shaft.**

**Watsonville, October 29: marchers demand decent housing and earthquake relief for displaced Chicanos and Mexican workers.**

workers with a recent history of mil­itant class struggle, refused to be cowed and fought back. On October 28, the city council pulled back from its attempt to sweep out the people. The city council, some 400-500 people staged a march through Watsonville, headed by United Farm Workers lead­ers Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, demanding “queremos casas” (we want houses) and “causas si, carpas no” (houses yes, tents no). Amnesting the federal government’s racist “relief” efforts, Chavez claimed “Congress has provided the funds,” and pinned all the blame on the racist city council officials. “If the city doesn’t move,” Chavez promised that the UFW “will file suits to make them give us the land” to build afford­able housing (Watsonville Register­Pajaronian, 30 October). Chavez’ bot­tom line was to vote in the good guys and vote out the bad in upcoming local elections on December 5 as the way to get federal earthquake money.

The December 5 elections are the result of a successful challenge in the Supreme Court to an at-large voting system, which essentially disen­fran­chised the Mexican community. But the challengers in the election, several by pro-Democratic leftist who­list­ed the Communist Party or the League for Revolutionary Struggle/ United Offer active policies. The LRS-backed candidate tried to wrap himself in the Mexican flag but a Mexican com­munity organizations in the area filed a petition with the Federal Emer­gency Management Agency (FEMA) charging that it contained racist actions against poor and non-English-speaking earth­quake victi­ms. “The Oakland Bay Bridge is put together in about a month. The pavilions in Santa Cruz were put up over the weekend,” said Chavez to the Watsonville Regis­ter-Pajaronian. “We’re four weeks into this disaster and we still have yet to receive a trail­er” for temporary housing in Watsonville (Register-Pajaronian, 16 November).

What the working people of Wat­sonville need right now is not futile ap­peals to the federal government, or the government’s driv­ing class struggle. The October 29 protest marched past a nearly completed devel­op­ment of “country style homes” (price tag over $200,000) off Pennsylvania Drive, while the pavilions in Watsonville, a small town of a few blocks of the city is the site of a largely unused condo complex of summer homes. So here in Watsonville the teeth into the slogan “causas si, carpas no” by mobilizing the social muscle of Teamsters, UFW and Watsonville people to demand the right to back up the homeless and seize these empty luxury homes! ■

**WORKERS VANGUARD**
Boston's Racist "Search on Sight" Dragnet

For the past six months, the black community of Boston has been subjected to a grotesquely racist "search-on-sight" policy in the area including Roxbury, Mattapan and parts of Dorchester. Under the policy, officially announced as part of a police campaign to "aggressively go after suspected gang members," thousands of black youth have been subjected to harassment, psychiatric evaluation and body searches by the cops. This is the contribution to the war on drugs by Boston's pseudopopulist anti-busing liberal mayor Raymond Flynn.

These "searches" are not mere pat-downs. Testimony in recent trials reveals a pervasive pattern of police behavior: gun-wielding cops have setFantastic. No need to respond further.++.
The Supreme Court, comprised of the evil Rehnquist and his gang, will soon decree whether teenagers needing abortions must first obtain parental consent. That's right—in reviewing Minnesota and Ohio "squel rules," the Court is deciding whether a girl who's never even met her father to get his consent for her abortion. In many cases, a young woman faces parental vindictiveness and violence as the state drags her family into her private decision. If a young woman seeks consent from the court instead of her parents, then she must justify her entire sexual history before complete strangers who will decide the course of her future life. Parental consent laws—already on the books in 26 states—serve as a front rather than state-sponsored child abuse.

Sex is a lot of what being a teenager is all about, and it (along with the government's dumb business) is the hypocrical rules of this country can't stop sex. But they can send teens who "do it" straight to hell—in this lifetime. The effect of these "squel rules," which would require abortion clinics to find on their young clients, is devastating. Soon after the law took effect in Minnesota, the birth rate for 15- to 17-year-olds climbed 38.4 percent, which means a lot of young women (and their babies too) were condemned to lives of poverty and ignorance. Of course, once the kid is born, the state doesn't care if you and it both die deep down. Only one in 50 teenage mothers finish college, compared to one in five among women in general. Last year in Chicago, while the clergy and the right wing mobilized to close birth control clinics in the public schools, a pregnant teenager shot herself in the stomach to induce an abortion.

From the moment she took office, Goodwin drew the ire of the ultra-right for being black and duly elected. Now the racists seek to fashion a noose out of adding machine tape and lynching Goodwin for using student government funds to attend a youth festival in North Korea and establishing an exchange program with Palestinian students in the Israel-occupied West Bank. The campus Zionists, who posture as the spokesmen for all Jewish people, quickly made common cause with unabashed Nazi-lovers running the "impeach Goodwin" campaign. While one right-winger provocatively asked Goodwin at a senate meeting if she planned to bring 100 Palestinian "terrorists" to UW-Madison, the Zionists, including the fascist Jewish Defense League, called a demonstration against Goodwin and the Palestinian student exchange program.

The "Black and White Party" preaches reliance on the university administration as the answer to racist attacks, demanding in addition to a "vice chancellor for minority affairs" and a "multi-cultural center," a ban against "offensive speech." This is bullshit—and dangerous besides. The job of the university administration is to enforce the racist status quo—and they've sure been doing it. Minority enrollment has plummeted at UW-Madison while the administration condones racist frat rats who hold "slave auctions" and physically attack black students. The administration treats these bigots with velvet gloves, at most requiring them to take "sensitivity courses," while unleashing their cops on anti-CIA protesters who were beaten and jailed. Would you leave it to the same administration to determine what speech is "offensive"? They would outlaw calling an imperialist pig "an imperialist pig" while giving an "A" in "sensitivity" to some white frat rat who beat up Jews and blacks.

Racists against racist attacks at UW last fall, a whole busload of students, organized by the Spartacus Youth Club, rode 60 hours to participate in a labor/black mobilization which stopped the Ku Klux Klan and skinhead fascists from "celebrating" white supremacy in Philadelphia last November 5. If anti-racist students and labor were to mobilize in Madison today, the racist punks in and out of the student government would get the message out fast. As the Madison SYC stated in a leaflet last year: "These frat rats who groove on slave auctions and racist attacks should remember General William Tecumseh Sherman's 'march to the sea' which freed the slaves and wiped out all nests of white racist slaveowner resistance from Atlanta to Savannah. The racist scum can thrive today only because the tasks of that great revolution remain unfinished. To finish the Civil War will take a socialist revolution led by an integrated workers' party."

Parental consent laws hit poor and black young women the hardest. In this racist society, black people are three times more likely than whites to be poor. Poor women are three times more likely to get an abortion—who wants to bring a kid to a world with no future? But to uphold bourgeois "morality," the state is essentially telling young women that they must bear children, and then denying them the right to exist. In 1988 alone, 346,587 teenage girls became mothers, and the vast majority of them are trapped beneath the poverty level. Meanwhile, welfare has been gutted and珠三角e a "reform" pushed by the democrats that is literally killing poor young women by stripping them of welfare payments if they turn down a job, any job, even if it means slavery at substandard wages and abandoning their kids. As Arkansas' public health director aptly put it, a poor teenage mother is "captive to a slavery the 13th Amendment did not anticipate."

Parents and school authorities and cops invade students' private lockers in search of pot, Play­boy or socialist literature. After a much publicized stabbing at Harper High in Chicago's black South Side ghetto, stu-
and are threatening to suspend or expel Chicago, waving banners and courageously defending their rights.

For it.

go to the bathroom or to a locker; marched out of Harper High School in Chicago, waving banners and registers ringing—sweet music for the us. By keeping teenagers

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in some imperialist war. In fact, today's high school students show a consent laws! Free abortion on demand!

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Time of restricting abortion rights for consent laws! Free abortion on demand!

in Virginia Beach. This racist crime has provoked a deep vein of outrage throughout all the East Coast black colleges. So why was the protest delayed two and a half months? Not because of lack of anger or initiative by the students. The nationalists in Howard's "Black NIA Force," the liberal NAACP, and the campaign staff of Douglas Wilder, the first black man to be elected governor in U.S. history, actively intervened to quash any protest or expression of outrage until after Wilder's election. Wilder, who is a pro-death penalty and who, as lieutenant governor, helped orchestrate the violence directed against both Pitman miners and black college students, will be yet another black overseer on the governing board of the College of Hampton University. Where were you, Doug?" chided one student's sign at the protest.

Students packed into the Virginia Beach Municipal Courthouse to stand by Quinton Stovall, a mechanical engi-

ness testimony of the violent "welcome" they received by racists backed by "the law" that weekend. Students told of being chased by baton-wielding police and by cops on horseback, of women being beaten. Helicopters swept overhead shining powerful spotlights into hotel rooms, where many students were overcharged and there appeared to be special menus in restaurants for black students—with higher prices and lim-

stricted selection (like $8.00 for bacon and eggs). Many were forced to pay for their meals in advance!

The "people's jury" found Virginia Beach "guilty of conspiracy to commit racism, assault and battery, fraud and interference with the right to peacefully congregate and enjoy life, liberty and happiness." In fact Virginia Beach is the quintessential white backlash community—the residential reflection of "massive resistance" to school integration, beginning in the 1950s, whose flash point was nearby Norfolk. Now there's a running debate among black students over whether to return to Virginia Beach next year or not. Some argue against returning and for a boycott of the resort. Others argue that this would be a capitulation to the racists who want to keep the area off limits to blacks and vow to return unbowed next year. But many respectfully fear returning to another police trap

We suggest a real labor day celebration next year. If the powerful and intelligent Tidewater longshoremen's union (ILA) sponsored the party, the skinheads and vigilantes would sink back into their holes, faced with thousands of burly dock workers enjoying the beach with students. And the cops would have to think long and hard before touching a hair on anyone's head—men with the dock workers union and they could face a strike that would shut down ports up and down the coast. Students allied with labor—when organized independently in the dock workers union, the workers party, we'll have the power to topple this whole racist capitalist system.
The Red Army crushed the Nazi regime and established a bureaucratically deformed workers state east of the Elbe. But the resurgence of German nationalism and fascist terror has not been restricted to the West German successor state of the Third Reich. There, the first victims of fascist terror are immigrant workers. And now similar attacks, for example on Vietnamese workers, are taking place in East Germany. Hostility to immigrant workers Nazi Skinheads Organized a Mass Hunt. Even the perimeter of this massive demonstration was filled with chants from West and East. Just as Russian workers must smash Pamyat, workers/minorities in East and West Germany had better organize to crush these vermin now.

A demonstration of 30,000 SED [Social Unity Party] members in East Berlin on November 10 demanded ‘No sellout of the DDR,’ for ‘real plans,’ that the Wall is coming down, but that, in any case, what was required then as well as today is fraternal cooperation between East German workers East and West.

"Hungary on the Brandenburg Gate led by Reagan." 

such as the Poles has been expressed even in the mass protest demonstrations, as in Dresden. Instead, as a banner on November 4 declared, "For Comminist Ideals! No Privileges!" This means: Full citizenship rights for immigrant workers East and West!

Today a wing of the East German security forces shows its support for revanchist capitalist restoration under the watchword of German nationalism by closing a new generation of fascist terrorist skinheads and scum, the existence of which the bureaucracy has done its best to deny. A banner of an anti-fascist contingent at the November 4 demonstration read, "Weimar: 160 and "return to Lenin." Stalin gave central planning a bad name. The East German economy is the most successful in Eastern Europe. Workers may chant "Gorby, Gorby, help us." But by and large they reject Gorbatchev’s "perestroika" and "market socialism," which have bred increasing misery and national conflict from the Balkans to the Baltic and Caucasus. East German workers are not about to surrender the social gains they have won. Attempts to form a Solidarnosc-style anti-Communist "free union" have fizzled.

Workers in the DDR have followed attentively the strikes against stenographers of Soviet miners. The factory committees the miners have organized are the core of real workers councils, which are the key if economic planning is to be continued by the working class. Although tremendous ferment exists in the plants, the working class remains politically atomized, e.g., the workers have as yet been no strikes, which would immediately be political. Workcouncils must be established at the point of production with control over quantity and quality. Computerized input-output analysis (developed by Russian-born economist Leontief) can permit investments in line with the democratically controlled growth of investment and consumption.

When the Wall started coming down on Friday [November 9], the West German stock market went up, because Frankfurt bankers and their SPD [social-democratic] front men are dreaming of bleeding East Germany dry the way they have Poland and Hungary. To defend collectivized property and to attack the world market, East Germany needs a stable, readily conterrevolutionary bid in 1981 and opposed the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan against imperialist-backed clerical reaction in 1979.

To date no left opposition has surfaced within the SED. Yet there have been expressions of support for real communism in the DDR, such as the signs on November 4 calling for "a new communist party." As in 1953, what is lacking today is a proletarian internationalist vanguard party fighting for power. Forging such a party requires returning to the Bolshevism of Lenin and Trotsky! Hail Rosa Luxemburg, the greatest founder of German Communism, murdered by the Freikorps at the behest of SED leadership! The German Revolution, East and West, needs a Leninist-Trotskyist workers party!

fan Heym was enthusiastically received when he said, ‘Socialism, not Stalinist but the real thing, which we want to finally establish in Germany, and that of all Germany, is unthinkable without democracy.’ The defense of collectivization of property in East Germany requires its extension to the West. That means the expropriation of the Frankfurt bureaucratic apparatus. Just as the West once supported the SED, the Wall is coming down, but that, in any case, what was required then as well as today is fraternal cooperation between East German workers East and West. 

As in 1953, what is lacking today is a proletarian internationalist vanguard party fighting for power. Forging such a party requires returning to the Bolshevism of Lenin and Trotsky! Hail Rosa Luxemburg, the greatest founder of German Communism, murdered by the Freikorps at the behest of SED leadership! The German Revolution, East and West, needs a Leninist-Trotskyist workers party! 

Workers Soviets Must Rule in All Germany

Continued from page 1 revolution. This means ousting the Stalinist bureaucracy and erecting in its place real workers Soviets, like those established in the October Revolution, based on collectivized property. This in turn can be the spark for socialist revolution in the capitalist West.

East Berliners flooded across the border into West Berlin on the night of November 9. Except for a handful all drowned out with boos and whistles. The Brandenburg Gate led by Reagan."
For Political Revolution in East Germany!

Continued from page 1

On November 9 the new rulers opened up the Berlin Wall. Suddenly, East Germans could cross into West Germany with no more than a stamp on their personal ID card. Over the following days, several million people—somewhere between a quarter and a half of the entire population of the DDR—took the opportunity to visit “over there.” Downtown West Berlin was jammed at all hours as East Germans spent the days and nights seeing relatives and friends. Polite resistance was futile. By November 17, several hundred thousand East Germans were crossing into West Berlin each day, and with them the DDR’s best and brightest—a quarter million people. Already in the summer, the bankrupt DDR-took the opportunity to visit

privatizing urban transportation. Polish workers are flocking to Hungary capitalists are flocking to the US, grabbing with a vengeance. And East Germany is the pivot of what has here­to­before been known as the Soviet bloc. Berlin has been the focal point of the Cold War for more than four decades. Berlin is the basis for an independent working class as the proletariat. What is on the agenda is political revolution. Polit­ically, the Solidarnose-led govern­ment is insisting on an end to strikes. What,…
East Germany...

(continued from page 9)

threatening the comfortable system that guarantees their jobs, low-cost housing and free health care and education. Moreover, the SED ranks have begun to rebel. On November 8, tens of thousands of party members demonstrated outside the Central Committee meeting. They succeeded in forcing a party congress (to be held December 15) where they can vote out the leadership, and local SED units dumped four out of the eleven recently appointed Politburo members. When a party official tried to get them to sing the old German social-democratic anthem, the demonstrators responded by singing the International.

Last October 9 in Leipzig, events occurred perilously close to a Beijing-style massacre, as Honecker ordered the army to shoot demonstrators. He was overruled and then ousted. But the ruling bureaucracy, including Gorbachev's "reformers" like Prime Minister Hans Modrow, cannot produce the "socialist renewal" they talk of. Events in East Germany point to a proletarian political revolution that will defend the existing social gains and open the way to genuine socialism. The Stalinist and infuriatingly Prussian bureaucracy is stifling the development of the most industrially advanced state of the Soviet bloc. What's needed is the proletarian democracy of soviet (workers council) led by a general council of workers based on the Bolshevik international program of Lenin and Trotsky. A political revolution in the DDR would throw out a clarion call to workers from Hungary and Poland to the Soviet Union, and would have an electrifying impact on West German workers and through-out capitalist West Europe.

But a little bit of political revolution is a chancy thing. At bottom, either the workers take political power or capital counterrevolution takes the ascendency. In the regular Monday night demonstration in Leipzig on November 20, for the first time right-wing nationalist slogans appeared calling for a capitalist reunification of Germany. "Deutschland—Ein Vaterland" (Germany—One Fatherland) proclaimed one banner. Meanwhile, in West German reactionary forces have been venting their rage against DDR immigrants: in Hannover, two "Trabics" (the East German Trabant car) were burned. And in Göttingen, anti-fascists who confronted neo-Nazis were assaulted by police, who drove one woman to her death in the path of an oncoming car. German workers, East and West, must mobilize their class power to smash the fascist threat.

For the Revolutionary Reunification of Germany!

No sooner had euphoria for East Germans poured across the Berlin Wall to go window-shopping on the Ku'damm and gorge themselves on chocolates than every leading capitalist politician started talking about reunification. What separates East and West Germany many are fundamentally counterposed social systems, not mortar and brick. Since its erection in 1961 the Wall has been Western imperialism's favorite Cold War symbol. As we wrote in WV No. 459 (12 August 1988):

"The imperialists hate the Berlin Wall because it was erected as a barrier to the capitalist reunification of Germany. The Wall was a measure, albeit a bureaucratic one, to defend the collectivized economy against imperialist pressure, specifically the measure of forging state-ran East German professionals and skilled workers to the West.... But what brought the Wall down in the end was not imperialist revanchism, but social struggle by the East German masses. Today, free passage across the Wall can also serve as a springboard for revolutionary unity and common struggle by the working masses of the capitalist West and the East German deformed workers state.

Yet many of those who believe in socialism for East Germany are convinced that a socialist revolution is impossible in West Germany, or at any rate remote as to be of no bearing on current politics. Consequently many DDR oppositionists see the Social Democracy (SPD) as the only alternative in West Germany. But the SPD has only administered German capitalism on behalf of the Krupp's and Thyssens, including presiding over mass layoffs such as at Rheinhausen last year, while acting as a cornerstone of NATO in building up the Bundeswehr as the strongest imperialist army in Europe. Toward East Germany, and East Germany in particular, the Social Democrats under Willy Brandt were the architects of the Ostpolitik that has become the common policy of German imperialism. This was symbolized by the Bundestag rising to sing the Deutschlandlied when the Wall was opened, and by the consensus program presented by Christian Democrat Kohl demanding the DDR dismantle the planned economy as a prerequisite for Western financial aid.

Today the West German SPD leaders are assiduously cultivating DDR oppositionists, bringing over the head of the newly founded East German Social Democratic Party (SDP) for "consultations," passing out advice to Bärbel Bohley of the Neues Forum not to push too fast. This line was summed up in a recent article by former SPD chancellor Helmut Schmidt (Die Zeit, 17 November) calling for lumping in "many billions of D-marks...over several years," for joint ventures and "training of managers and unions." In Schmidt's scenario for counter-revolution, "The property question is..."
Even as Solidarność prime minister Mazowiecki was demanding that the Polish
ministers work mandatory Saturdays to speed up production, Solidarność leaders were
in Washington, D.C., trying to drum up capital investment for Poland. On November 13, Walesa was
given a dinner by the AFL-CIO in a White House
bouquet, where Bush gave him the
Medal of Freedom. Two days later he was greeted with a standing ovation at a joint session of Congress. But the high-
light of Walesa's visit was his triumphant
appearance at the AFL-CIO con-
vention, where AFL-CIO chief Lane
Kirkland belatedly gave him the 1981
"George Meany Human Rights" award,
appropriately named after the rabid anti-Communist who had supported every U.S.-backed right-wing dictatorship in the
world. As a film on the rise and tri-
some independence of enterprise
U.S.-backed right-wing dictatorship in
German capitalism.
their words 'have no country,' can establish
socialism by its own immediate action. The
idea of an individual worker who can give
birth to a worker's party is absurd...a
private entrepreneur, to build socialism in one country. And that
possibility is even more manifest for East Germany because of its intimate economic relation with the West
German capitalisms.
We recognize that East German
workers and leftist intellectuals, how-
ever much they would love to see a
socialist revolution in the East, are convinced this is an utterly utopian
prospect. But here they are truly un-
derestimated capacities to change the
world. And they also do not fully understand the degree to which it is the hidden deformations of Stan-
inism, and not the purported viability of
capitalism, which have strengthened bourgeois, anti-socialist, anti-democratic
ideology among the West European
working class.
A pamphlet on the economics of the
East European deformed workers
states, analyzing Yugoslavia, Hungary and
East Germany in the context of
Gorbachev's perestroika. The pamphlet
considers the history of the ruling
capitalist class's efforts to combat the
uprising through decentralization and
market-oriented reforms, and counterposes the Trotskyist program
centered economic planning based on
worker democracy.

**"AFL-CIA" and Solidarność**

**"AFL-CIA"** chief Lane Kirkland (at front podium) fêtes Solidarność
counterrevolutionary Lech Walesa (nearest to Kirkland) and boss George
Bush (right).

land gang's partnership with the CJA for
counterrevolution in Poland goes right back to the founding days of
Solidarność.

Now that Poland has a
Solidarność-led cabinet and a reactionary Catholic prime minister, the anti-Communist
backers of Solidarność are egging on. A few months ago, the Washington Post
(27 August) ran a story, "How We
Helped Solidarity Win" by one Adam
Karatnycky, coordinator of "East Euro-
pean programs" for the AFL-CIO's
"Department of International Affairs.
His braggadocio underlined the fact
that Solidarność was funded by the CJA virtually from its inception. While sum-
dry fake "leftists" were touting this pro-
West "free union," the Socialist
tendency denounced the imperialist spy
agency operation as well as the Solid-
arność leaders' counterrevolutionary aims.

Karatnycky says that as early as 1980-81, "hundreds of thousands of dol-
lars of aid for Solidarność" poured into
the AFL-CIO headquarters.

Where those big bucks came from is no doubt
part of the "much of the story" which he
says "will have to be told another day"—
that it was sure wasn't collected at factory
gates. In later years, Karatnycky admits,
"millions of dollars" for Solidarność were laundered by the AFL-CIO.

This congressionally funded agency was cre-
ated in 1983 as a thinly veiled cover for
the CIA. These dirty dollars bought
"scores of printing presses, dozens of
privateers, hundreds of mimeograph machines, thousands of gallons of printer's ink ... video cameras and radio
broadcasting equipment."

Karatnycky notes that this operation "caught the attention" of the Polish gov-
ernment, which banned Kirkland and the head of the AFL-CIO's Interna-
tional Department, Irving Brown, from
attending Solidarność's first congress in 1981, which consolidated around a
counterrevolutionary program.

Brown, better known as "Mr. Afl-CIA," spent
more than four decades in anti-
Communist, union-busting service around the
world before he finally died this year. In France after World War II, he paid
Corsican mafia thugs to attack
"red" dockers there. In Latin America, the
Austrian "American Institute for Free Labor
Development" set up yellow unions and helped overthrow leftist govern-
ments from Guatemala in 1954 to Chile
in 1973. In Poland this outfit set up a real
company "union."

Lane Kirkland is himself a top labor
lieutenant of American imperialism and anti-Soviet Cold War. He gradu-
ated from Georgetown University's
School of Foreign Service and worked as a
consultant to right-wing Trumans.

Kirkland has been a high-level in-

gency "overseer" on "Company busi-
ness." Now he is the leader of Solidarność,
which had supplied a
Solidarność 'poured
into
what is now West Germany. Between
1946 and 1948, 70 percent of the enter-
preneur classes in the Ruhr coal mines were headed by KPD militants. In 1947
"Solidarity" won 14 of 15 seats in the vote in North Rhine-Westphalia, the indus-
trial heartland of West Germany (Ute
Kurtz, "GÜNTER FISCHER - DER erzwun-
en Kapitalismus" [1978]). It was only
after the Stalinist bureaucratization of
East Germany, and the pitiful failure to lead militant struggles when they
had mass support, that the Social
Democrats, agents of Western imperi-
alin, gained political hegemony over
the West German proletariat.

If the East German working class takes political power on the basis of
soviet democracy and in the name of

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**System in Eastern Europe**

The Bankruptcy of the Socialist Model

Hungary: "Goulash Communism"

For Central Planning through Social Democracy

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11
New York City Elections... (continued from page 3)
infrastructure crumbles further. If it's not a ruptured asbestos-coated water pipe under Eighth Avenue, it's the Wil­lumsburg Bridge falling apart.

But it's going to get worse. The junk­bond-fueled "prosperity" of the '80s is over. New York's workers, minorities and poor. As he addressed potential Wall Street con­tributors just prior to the election, Dinkins assured them he could handle labor and minorities. "So it may well be that I'll have to tell some of my friends they cannot have all the things they want. But they'll take it from me." (New York Times, 30 October). David Dinkins did manage to unite both sides of the bitter '86 teachers strike, both the Shankerite and "pro-choice" set.

Dinkins, Wattenberg argues, has claimed that abortions involve "embryos"—a way to eliminate it.

The aspiration of thousands of blacks, Hispanics, of city unionists awakened by the Dinkins campaign, can never be realized within the confines of electoral politics in this racist capitalist system. Newark, New Jersey, and its second generation of black mayors, stands as a monument to the ruling class' contempt for and abandonment of the black population in this country. There, they even came with the wrecking ball and knocked down the public housing projects. There were people relocated—in nice new garden apart­ments the city planners consider more "invaluable"? No, they're on the streets, the subway gratings, and the morgue. New York—its vast forgotten expanses of the South Bronx, Bushwick, Loisaida—will face the same.

Desperately needed is a struggle that breaks out of the stranglehold of the two capitalist parties, based on mobiliza­tion of the mass of the working people in a fight for power, against the Wall Street, Junker, real estate speculators, the bourgeois anti­revolutionary approach to women's liberation, will find their way to the official Socialist Union—enlightened Socialists of America, he is supported by the capitalist politicians. The Dinkins coalition the quintessential "bourgeois"-oriented, un­ited on the defense of black community into main­stream bourgeois politics. The Dinkins coalition is the quintessential "bourgeois"-oriented, un­ited on the defense of black community into main­stream bourgeois politics. The Dinkins coalition is the quintessential "bourgeois"-oriented, un­ited on the defense of black community into main­stream bourgeois politics.

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Texas Plastics Plant Explosion: 23 Dead

A Case of Company Murder

“It was like being inside a bomb,” said Clay Howell, who was knocked out of his chair by the blast, which registered between 3.5 and 4.0 on the Richter scale. Over 120 others were hospitalized, many in critical condition. When the blast blew up, pieces of sheet metal a foot long rained down on drivers fleeing the area. A week later the plant was still burning.

This was no “industrial accident.” Workers were forced to work in this plant in order to make a living. Phillips’ greed for profit—the Pasadena plant was a time bomb ticking away.

In testimony before a Congressional subcommittee on November 6, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) vice president Robert Wages described what happened when the highly explosive isotobane and ethylene gases used in manufacturing high-density polyethylene (HDPE) escaped the 16-story-tall reactor No. 6.

“Within two to five minutes the vented process gas and product created an open-air vapor cloud that engulfed the reactor complex #4, #5 and plant five floors high. The vapor cloud was ignited by an unknown source and exploded with the force of ten tons of TNT.”

In the seconds before the explosion, workers ran for their lives. But many were trapped by the race for the exits. The fence Phillips had ringed the plant with to ensure safety.

Phillips refused to allow union safety experts into the plant until a court order forced them to. The company’s history of racism, discrimination and neglect of safety procedures has been associated with one of the worst accidents in the city’s history: the accidental death of an earlier “accident” in August. And union safety reps quickly pointed to the causes: the time, 4 a.m.; a 24-hour shift; and lack of maintenance. Poorly trained, non-union maintenance crews working on reactor No. 6 failed to notice that the valve had been opened, which allowed the explosive gases to escape. And as the OCAW official told Congress, the “reactor was designed with no automatic safety systems that cut off a valve venting to the atmosphere.”

About 500 of the 900 workers at the Phillips plant were members of OCAW Local 4-227, the rest drawn from the non-union outfligh that charge Phillips only two-thirds of union wages. In the August fire, which killed one worker and injured four, the same maintenance subcontractor in the October 23 explosion was cited for failure to “lock out” valves. For the death of that worker, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) fined Phillips a lousy $750—and the butchers are contesting that! These workers died because of Phillips Petroleum’s relentless drive for profits through destroying union jobs and a calculated, deadly disre­
fion was cited for failure to

even the Occupational Safety and Health Administration when gasoline and chemical profits are high... “People are putting in mini­

“... their lives. The Board of Directors and top management of the Phillips plant ought to be on trial for murder.

The chemical and oil processing industries have fought off tougher safety restrictions while compliance with existing laws has plummeted. The last comprehensive inspection of the Phillips plant by OSHA was in 1975. “Rash of Fires at Oil and Chemical Plants Sparks Alarm,” read the Wall Street Journal (7 November), noting a recent wave of deaths and injuries across the country: “Chemical outside Chicago, Chevron in Richmond, California, Shell Oil in Norco, Louisi­

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The virtual disappearance of the working people is the real American tragedy. This is why the struggle for safety and against racism must be linked together, and why the workers in the chemical industry who are being forced to work in these unsafe conditions must be supported.

From the Communist Party—October 23, 1989

BOSTON... (continued from page 3)

considered by mayor-elect David Dinkins for the top cop post in NYC.

This latest wave of cop terror comes at an ominous point in the city’s his­

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guerrilla fighters, together with FMLN units, have changed the pattern of irregulars, took up positions in the city before attacking the presidential palac­e, which has 600 staff, military barracks, the military air­port and other targets. Entrenching themselves and clearing roadblocks on the outskirts of San Salvador, they threw a cordon around the capital.

Military and political analysts launched a series of government positions in San Salvador and the third largest cities, as well as smaller provincial capitals. Altogether more than 300 have taken refuge under­neath the streets.
The slogan of this spec­­ulative offensive is “Fascists Out! Febe Elizabeth Velásquez!” It was named after the union leader who was killed along with nine of her compañeros when a death squad burned their union hall on Octo­ber 31.

While the initial objective was to “outflank” the army, the former president Alfredo Cristiani to negotiate in good faith, the success of the opera­tion, said FMLN General Command to call for a popular uprising. A November 13 “Manifesto to the Nation” broadcast over the FMLN’s Radio Venceremos called on units fight­ing from trenches, behind street barricades.

In past civil wars, the Salvadoran oligarchy has felt the heat of battle only a few miles away from their mansions. And the cowardly killers who guard them have been stumped. “We didn’t imagine the attack of the delinquent terrorists aided by foreign forces was going to be such a big thing,” exclaimed a para­troop major. Interestingly, U.S. General Fred Worner, who until recently was head of the Southern Command in Panama, paid a soldiers­tirr­ity to the FMLN fighters.

“Hold the FMLN in high regard profes­sionally for their staying power,” Worner said. “This urban attack is the latest in a series, launched before attacking the presidential pal­ace and other targets. Entrenching and third largest cities, as well as smaller provincial capit­als. Altogether more than 300 have taken refuge under­neath the streets.

The FMLN’s “Manifesto to the Nation” at the start of the offensive calls on “all political and social forces, popu­la­tion organizations and labor union­ists” to “assume the historic role of pro­moters and builders of a democratic national solution that will bring lasting peace to our country.” The “Manifi­sto” makes a “patriotic exhortation to all men” with a ref­erence to the national anthem. This is not just some call to patriotic sentimentality—as if class war could be patched over with national colors. FMLN spokes­men have insisted time and again that class collaboration is the strategic line. And this is clear that their program is not for a social revolution of the workers, peas­ants and campesinos.

While appealing to the patriotism of Salvadoran capitalists and military to support the govern­ment down there, and they should know that. That despite their efforts to the contrary we are not going to abandon President Duarte, to a curse on both your heads.

Like bourgeois liberals, the petty­bourgeois radicals of the FMLN speak of bringing to­gether “all political and social forces, popu­la­tion organizations and labor union­ists” to “assume the historic role of pro­motors and builders of a democratic national solution that will bring lasting peace to our country.” The “Manifi­sto” makes a “patriotic exhortation to all men” with a ref­erence to the national anthem. This is not just some call to patriotic sentimentality—as if class war could be patched over with national colors. FMLN spokes­men have insisted time and again that class collaboration is the strategic line. And this is clear that their program is not for a social revolution of the workers, peas­ants and campesinos.

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In Nicaragua the Sandinistas’ bour­geois revolutionary strategy may now be seen to have failed because of the rise in the price of oil and because... and... the contra. One of their former coalition partners, Violeta Chá­vez, is now producing rice on the site of the tune of millions of dollars as the contra candidate for president.

To oppose the Sandinistas under So­mora, the working-class in El Salvador has far greater social weight and a higher level of political consciousness. During the past few years, tens of thousands of workers have repeatedly marched on May Day and occasionally engaged in protests in defiance of the military. Immediately after Cri­tias’s trial off the year June—contrary to ARENA’s domination of the formal government structure (executive, legis­lative and judicial) while the military is dominating the national and regional security forces, the FMLN, currently under a new leadership, is taking the lead in the political struggle. In October the union militants are still being kid­napped and murdered daily. But in the first place in terms of bar­barity and in the second place in terms of popular support, the FMLN and Sandinistas. The, frequent and violent attacks on the FMLN and Sandinistas.

San Salvador, July 1988: Union demonstration against “state of emergency” law. In the face of brutal government repression, delinquent working class has repeatedly taken to the streets to protest strikebreaking and death squad terror.

The military budget by $20 billion—a decrease of about 3.5 percent!—and have toned down the Reaganite posture of fighting “Soviet surrogates” around the globe. But not in El Salvador. When a young woman heckled Bush about supporting the murder of priests, he told her to shut up and shouted back, “the left-wing guerrillas must not take over El Salvador” (New York Times, 21 November).

Washington hopes and expects to enlist Gorbachev in preventing such a takeover. State Department chief James Baker complained: “Soviet behavior toward Cuba and Central America remains the biggest obstacle to a full, across-the-board improvement in rela­tions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.” There is rather nice irony here. For decades Washington den­ounced the KGB for trying to sub­vert “the free world.” But now the U.S. rulers regret that Gorbachev cannot lay down the law, as it so often does in the, likes of Castro, Ortega and Vilhollas.

Certainly, Gorbachev wants nothing more than to bring pumping and oil to its country and to the neutralization of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, a U.S. back­ward country of three million? Because everyone knows the Americans would end up losing some. But the workers and peasants of Central America, indeed all of Latin America, as their front yard. Well, the U.S. is a military superpower. Sooner rather than later the Wall Street and Military to wipe out the Salvado­ran guerrillas and to overthrow the San­dinistas, Nicaragua’s Sandinista-re­gion of its renewed anti-Corn­munist crusade.

The American ruling class has come to realize that the Sandinistas are no longer the radical forces in Latin America. They are now considered the “subversives” that must be destroyed. Therefore, Reagan’s policy of support to the Contras is to be massive and instant.

A small sign: a spokesman for the United Mine Workers—a union not usually given to supporting radical causes—participated in last weekend’s Washington meeting in support against U.S. support to the Salvadorean regime.

El Salvador is a small country with lit­tle economic significance in the world. However, after the humiliating loss in Vietnam and the Nicaraguan Revolution the Reaganite global polit­ical situation to make El Salvador the site of its renewed anti-Communist cru­sade. Gorbachev’s policy was to take the anti-Soviet card. The where the leftist guerrillas were wiped out by U.S. pop­ings and the U.S. government, amounting to a bounty of $30 million, is warned, will not be enough. George Bush declared that the war in El Salvador has taken on a global significance far greater than the Central American conflict in which it is being fought. A victory for the leftist rebels over the Salvadorean government would stifle the humiliation for U.S. imperialism with repercussions from the barrios of Mex­ico City to the factories of East Berlin and beyond.
November 21—Shortly before dawn this morning, leftist rebels burst into the luxurious Sheraton Hotel in San Salvador, occupying the VIP tower, a known CTA/embassy haunt sealed off to regular guests. In the process they trapped up to 12 heavily armed U.S. military “advisers” who were housed there. These “advisers” have been identified as part of a 14-man elite team of Green Berets, the notorious gang of murderers who have cut a swath of terror from South Vietnam to Central America. The FMLN has stated they are being treated as “prisoners of war,” and has offered to turn them over to the U.S. embassy. But the U.S. has initially refused to negotiate with the rebels.

The Sheraton is located in the elite Escalon neighborhood, home of all the leading capitalists, politicians and generals. As a CBS journalist reported, “The war in El Salvador has arrived on the doorstep of the oligarchy.” The guerrillas said that they had taken Escalon “to show that the government would not dare to bomb the homes of the rich, as it did last week in slum neighborhoods.” As we go to press, elements of the “Delta Hostage Rescue Force,” based in Fort Bragg, have reportedly been given an order to “move into position for a possible rescue mission.” If Bush now tries to send his boys in to get these professional killers out, the FMLN will be doing the world a service by sending the lot of them to kingdom come.

While the American ruling class is celebrating “the death of Communism,” the Salvadoran leftist insurgency now has shaken to its core one of the most bloodthirsty of all U.S. puppet states. On Saturday, November 12, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) launched coordinated attacks across the country and occupied the densely populated working-class barrios around the capital. With great heroism and brilliant tactics, for over a week the rebel forces have fought to a standstill the Salvadoran army massively supplied with Pentagon weaponry. Indeed, the death squad regime in El Salvador has received more U.S. military aid than any country in the world except Israel and Egypt.

As people throughout the world marveled at the raw courage and boldness of the leftist rebels, they were sickened and outraged by the barbarism of the U.S.-backed forces. Having no stomach to fight the guerrillas house to house, the Salvadoran army has bombed and strafed the barrios. Doctors at Las Rosales hospital in San Salvador report that most of the wounds are from shrapnel, not bullets. As the civil war raged, 30 uniformed military men tortured and killed six Jesuit priests, outspoken supporters of social justice who had been targeted by the right-wing death squads. The crazed killers who rule El Salvador are capable of massacring tens of thousands to “avenge” their humiliation at the hands of the FMLN guerrillas. They enjoy killing peasants. But an attempted massacre in San Salvador’s barrios just could spark a desperate working-class uprising, finally bringing down this barbaric regime.

For some months Washington and Wall Street have been reveling in the supposed dismantling of Communism in East Europe and throughout the world. State Department “theorician” Francis Fukuyama proclaims that the “American way of life” is triumphing everywhere and forever. But as the American ruling class dances on the grave of Marxism, the spectre of Communism armed and militant now rises up in its own backyard. As Fidel Castro said, the Salvadoran offensive is teaching “euphoric” imperialism a lesson. Washington’s death squad regime in El Salvador is tottering. To bring it down what’s needed is not just a bold military move by guerrilla units but a workers insurrection backed by the peasantry and urban poor. For the Salvadoran masses there can be no “negotiated settlement” with the pathological killers who have already slaughtered tens of thousands by mass assassination, indiscriminate terror and now bombing their own cities. The real alternatives are revolution or death. And the overthrow of the blood-drenched ruling class by the leftist rebels and armed workers could open the way for social revolution, sparking a conflagration throughout Central America and into Mexico with its powerful industrial proletariat.

A Salvadoran Tet Offensive

Descending from the San Salvador volcano, an estimated 1,500 seasoned...