AUGUST 4—As we go to press, South Africa's millions-strong black working class has hit the apartheid rulers and shut down the country with a nationwide two-day general strike. A week of mass actions is to follow, including occupying government buildings and a march on Pretoria tomorrow. Called by the African National Congress and its labor ally, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the campaign sought to pressure the government in the "power sharing" talks aimed at masking white supremacy under neo-apartheid rule. But the ANC broke off negotiations following the June 17 massacre in Boipatong township near Sharpeville by Inkatha thugs abetted by the apartheid police and army.

The week-long campaign of protest has been carefully managed. The New York Times (4 August) reported that the strike "had been scaled back until it became more of a cathartic ritual aimed at letting off steam in the townships before a resumption of talks." But with anger mounting in the black townships and unions, the regime is braced for a season of turmoil which could "get out of hand" and slip the ANC/COSATU leash. Already, more than 20 people have been killed since Sunday.

"Tsar" Boris Yeltsin being blessed by Russian Orthodox patriarch last August. "Free market" austerity means impoverishment and economic devastation for Soviet working people. Many are driven to selling off their personal possessions to survive.

It is now twelve months since the forces of counterrevolution led by Boris Yeltsin and orchestrated by Washington gained the ascendancy in the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of the botched August coup attempt by the Kremlin "gang of eight," they launched a forced draft march toward capitalist restoration. Following the "shock treatment" inaugurated in January, the economy is dramatically collapsing. Hunger and homelessness are becoming commonplace. Inventories of meat and garbage pile up as people scavenge through garbage for scraps of food. The birth rate has reached its lowest point since the end of World War II, a measure of the desperation gripping Soviet society. The overwhelming mass of the working people are being driven into the lower depths.

The juridical dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics last December exacerbated nationalist antagonisms and paved the way to recreating the kind of squalid fratricide which has destroyed Yugoslavia. Civil war rages in the Caucasus between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, in Moldova between ethnic Romanians and the Russian-speaking minority. In Central Asia Islamic fundamentalists are surging forward. In the Ukraine, streets are being renamed in honor of notorious pogromists like the White Guardist Pletliarua and Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera. Meanwhile, stridently chauvinist elements within and outside the Yeltsin regime seek to capitalize on the turmoil at the fringes of the Russian republic in order to cohere a counterrevolutionary Russian nationalist armed force out of the still multinational Soviet army.

The situation facing the Soviet working people grows ever more calamitous. Food prices have skyrocketed: bread now costs 20 times more and other products as much as 100 times more than they did a year ago. Pensioners and others on fixed incomes are on the brink of starvation. The only thing being produced in any quantity is increasingly worthless rubles, with the printing presses literally incapable of keeping pace. Yeltsin now regularly has a plane stuffed full of rubles trailing him wherever he travels inside the Russian republic, to dispense to workers who have not been paid for weeks or even months.

But despite the horrendous situation the workers have been plunged into, aside from the enormously popular "holidays": in the defense industry center of Ryazan, all 24 of the major factories have either shut their gates or gone on three-day weeks since July 1. Overall, production dropped 15 percent just in the first quarter of the year. In the critical military goods sector, sales are expected to plummet by up to 85 percent this year. Adding to as many as 2.5 million layoffs, if subsidies to bankrupt state industries are cut off, as many as 15 million more could be unemployed by year's end, raising the non-payment of wages, have remained empty. Notably, the CIA-connected "independent" miners union, which was so quick to strike for Yeltsin in 1990-91, has kept the coal miners from mobilizing their power against the ravages of Yeltsin's "shock treatment."

Until now mass unemployment has not hit. But already factories throughout the country are forcing workers to take long unpaid summer "holidays": in the defense industry center of Ryazan, all 24 of the major factories have either shut their gates or gone on three-day weeks since July 1. Overall, production dropped 15 percent just in the first quarter of the year. In the critical military goods sector, sales are expected to plummet by up to 85 percent this year. Adding to as many as 2.5 million layoffs, if subsidies to bankrupt state industries are cut off, as many as 15 million more could be unemployed by year's end, raising the
The gospel of the bureaucracy, stands before us in all its nationalistic limitation and impossibility of establishing correct economic ties—these obstacles by themselves are sufficiently profound and grave; but vastly more important than these is the fact that the defeats of the world revolution are inevitably disintegrating the living bearer of the Soviet system, the proletariat, compelling it to place its neck obediently under the yoke of the national bureaucratic, which, in turn, is being corroded by all the viles of Bonapartism. Outside of world revolution there is no salvation!

—Leon Trotsky, "Where Is the Stalin Bureaucracy Leading the USSR?" (January 1935)
Ex-CP “Committees of Correspondence” Conference of the Living Dead

When we last tuned in, the “disdient” faction of the Communist Party USA had run into a Stalinist brick wall at Gus Hall’s Cleveland convention last December, so they started divorce proceedings. But with the so-called oppositionists. But with the

Saturday evening offered a vision of “1992 and Beyond: The Role of the Left” in which Carl Bloece, former editor of "People’s World," said that would hold his nose and vote for “sick Willie" and "the Democrats, again, but held out a hint of breaking away for a new, progressive wing in the sweet by-and-by." Leslie Cagan of the "Cuba Information Project" launched an anti-comunist diatribe against a mythical someone from a “Marxist Leninist Vanguard Workers and Peasants Party" who "has the answers" and thus strangles "creativity." Ying Lee Kelly, one of Ron Dellums' aides, proudly described herself as a "Democratic Party back," which gave some applause.

Finally, the chair urged people not to "rinker" so much and just stick to questions of principle. This was a perfect preface to our comrade's presentation, which went roughly as follows:

"Regarding principles: the main thread of this document is in the sentence, ‘We view socialism as the struggle for democracy carried to its logical conclusion.’ And later it says, ‘Marxism arose, historically, from revolutionary movements for democracy.’ Actually, that’s only partly true: Marx broke from the bourgeois democrats as a result of their betrayal of the 1848 revolutions, and after that he called for independent organizations of the working class. "In the 20th century one of the leading proponents of the ‘socialism in one country’ theory was a guy named Karl Kautsky, and as you should know, Lenin launched a lot of attacks on him. Lenin’s point, drawing on the lesson of the 1917 Russian Revolution, was that the working class had achieved higher forms of organization, government, the workers soviets, which historically, from revolutionary movements. "What Los Angeles shows is that this system will not be fundamentally changed through elections. If you want to be a Marxist, this is in your right. But we—the Spartacist League—stand with Lenin. "

JUST OUT!

Partial contents:

- Racist Cop Terror U.S.A.
- L.A. Racist Cops Walk—There Is No Justice in the Capitalist Court!
- Outrage Over Racist Acquittal of Cops in Rodney King Case
- For Black Liberation Through Socialist Revolution!
- L.A. Uproar: Nurses America
- Education U.S.A.—Separate and Unequal
- For Quality, Integrated Education for All!
- Clarence Thomas: Anti-African-Hunting Fascist Justice
- Sex, Race and Reaction

Order from:

Spartacist Pub. Co.,
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$1 (56 pages)

Board and unfair labor practices (on the Board and sued for violation of contract correspondence (CoC) held their first national conference in the wake of the Democratic convention. Meanwhile, the Committees of Correspondence (CoC) held their first national conference in Berkeley, July 17-19, in the wake of the Democratic convention. The convfs was billed as “Perspectives for Democracy and Socialism in the ‘90s” and listed the usual “progressive” suspects, with perhaps more prominence given to their friends in the socialist-communist Democratic Party (Socialists of America. The first paragraph of the conference call the same way by talking of trying to “influence the course of the 1992 elections” (read “elect Clinton/Gore”). But of course, in particular to go the “progressive” flavor before swallowing.

So the opening big event, Friday evening, was a discussion on the theme “The Socialist Revolution in the 20th Century,” looking exactly like the old CP front-page rallies, except that the Soviet Union was now in the discussion. While former Berkeley mayor Gus Newton was emce and introduced a string of international reps: a Vietnamese Stalinist who talked about “renovation” in the Vietnamese CP while quoting from Ho Chi Minh; an FMLN speaker, boasting about the FMLN’s success in “enter the government” of El Salvador in 1994; someone from the ANC/SACP, pleading with De Klerk to “stop the to vote and “maximize the possibilities in 1992,” there being “no other route except through the struggle for democracy” (get it?).

Then came Manning Marable, black scholar and political columnist, who took the floor and prefaced the discussion by saying that Marx had supposedly shelved and never published his devastating critique of the Global Program of the CPUSA in the interests of “unity,” implying that the audience should follow this alleged example! And here we thought all this time that the importance of Marx’s seminal work on the state was that it explained the need for “the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat,” inspiring Lenin’s State and Revolution and the Bolshevik Revolution. For these reformist retires, the great thing about Marx’s critique was that it wasn’t published for 15 years! Perhaps the most forthright statement from the assembled would-be social democrats came from someone who described himself as on the “extreme right wing,” and opposed any reference to “socialism." All attempts
SAN FRANCISCO—The L.A. upheaval last May shook the racist rulers of this country, and they are determined to avenge themselves on the oppressed. Police, prosecutors and courts are vindictively punishing those they seized when the multiracial poor and exploited of Los Angeles exploded in anger after a white jury freed the cops who beat Rodney King almost to death. Nearly 13,000 mainly Hispanic and black youth were arrested in L.A. According to a detailed 23 June ACLU report cataloguing the wholesale repression, the District Attorney filed felony charges against some 2,400—for second-degree commercial burglary, i.e., "looting." One of these, a 50-year-old black man, was picked up for having a pack of cigarettes and a soda in an already looted building and now faces up to three years in state prison. His case is typical.

The police-state operations were so indiscriminate and massive that the cops can’t even keep track of who they busted, mainly for the “crime” of being poor and on the street in the ghettos and barrios. Over a quarter of those picked up were thrown out for lack of any proof (San Francisco Chronicle, 2 June). “The police literally placed barriers around a commercial area and rounded up everyone there,” says the ACLU report. Crammed into already overcrowded jails or forced to sleep on the ground in outside holding pens, thousands faced typical bail of $8,000 for trivial “offenses.” One man got $50,000 bail and a felony charge for allegedly taking sunflower seeds from a convenience store. Homeless people were jailed for “curfew violation” and their possessions destroyed. Others were hauled away for standing on their own front lawn or driving home after work. Mugra SWAT teams swept the streets for anyone Hispanic-looking. Cops handed over 1,500 to the INS for deportations, including pregnant women grabbed off the street. Many pled guilty, told by judges or public defenders that if they didn’t, they’d stay in jail for a month or more, losing their jobs and facing starvation for their families.

In San Francisco, nearly 2,000 were arrested in wholesale police sweeps. Only 10-20 percent of protesters were black and looting was minimal, yet under a racist “state of emergency” eagerly declared by Mayor (and former police chief) Frank Jordan, the cops and District Attorney Arlo Smith targeted black youth. Of the 105 hit with felony charges, more than 80 percent are black. The D.A. bypassed normal arraignment hearings and got indictments from a grand jury in star-chamber-style secret “hearings.” Defense attorneys were stunned when nine defendants—all black—returning to court on May 11 after having been released on their own recognizance were re-arrested on the trumped-up “felonies” and hauled off to jail.

The majority of the “S.F. 105” are first offenders, many accused of petty theft—a couple of T-shirts, a pair of jeans. As in L.A., those convicted face 16 months to three years in state prison hellholes. According to a spokesman for the No Justice No Peace defense committee, some have already been blackmailed into pleading guilty in exchange for 18 months, 20 years probation and 30 days community service.

The usually tame S.P. public defender’s office denounced the prosecutor for blatant racism in singling out blacks for harsh punishment while drop­ping charges against most white protesters arrested. On July 9, even the city Human Rights Commission asked for the firing of four officers. But Municipal Court judge Lenard Louie ruled the D.A. “did not single out any ethnic group.” “It’s a public policy to do when the generals would pull a soldier from the ranks and shoot him to set an example,” said Deputy public defender Grace Suarez. “The DA is doing the same thing by taking a poor kid who took a shot and sending him to state prison” (S.F. Weekly, 1 July).

The state openly proclaims the political nature of this racist persecution. Unlike “guar­den” theft,” this was “mob looting”—i.e., part of an angry protest against brutal racism repression—and that “raises it to another level,” said Assistant D.A. Harry Donohue. “You don’t know that this kind of civil disturbance might not happen again soon.” Assistant D.A. Helen Schuler said union-busting authorities can parlay any kind of spurious, petty charge against a picketer into long jail terms. Anti-racist students, blacks, Hispanics, workers, all have a vital stake in determining whether May’s “civil disturbance” must be freed now! Drop the charges against the victims of police repression! [End]

Letter

Howard Chilton Remembered

Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Comrades,

Howard Chilton, 45, died of a heart attack at his home in New Orleans on June 10. He was an ardent, longtime sympathizer of the Spartacist League. Howard joined the SL briefly, as part of the 1977 fusion with the Red Flag Union, the radical gay group which found its way from the prevalent sectoralism of the gay milieu to proletarian politics. The fusion affirmed the centrality of the Trot­skyist analysis of the Russian question at the height of Democratic president Jimmy Carter’s anti-Soviet war drive. And while Howard was only briefly a member in the Chicago SL local, these were the two programmatic themes of his political life. Born and raised in Memphis, Tennes­see, Howard’s fight for civil rights and against the Vietnam War were shaped and supported by his father, Howard Sid­ney; Sidney was an early active member of the ACLU in Memphis, which was the Southern regional outpost of the national ACLU in the mid-1960s. Howard was active in SDS.

When the black sanitation workers went on strike, Howard was one of two whites to participate in their march and rally, and his name appeared in the newspa­per. Late at night came the inevitable, ominous phone call. As Howard’s father recalled, proudly describing his son’s actions, “he would be a terrorist wanted like the other Chiltons.”

From anti-gay bigotry to racism, Howard had no tolerance for intolerance. As a student of philosophy he came to see Marxism as the vehicle for the liberation of humanity. Such were the components of his trajectory from the Red Flag Union to the Spartacist League.

Years after he left the SL, Howard was delighted to renew his link to the party. He became our eyes and ears in New Orleans. A writer and a loner, in his own words a “bohemian,” Howard none­theless installed a phone and answering machine so he could work with us. Though Howard worked hard as a writer in the French Quarter and lived modestly, he was a regular and generous finan­cial contributor to the party and was especially inspired by our fight against capitalist counterrevolution in East Ger­many and the Soviet Union.

When some class struggle broke out in New Orleans with a militant teachers strike in 1990, Howard was reporter, photographer and VW salesman. He re­ported on demonstrations against fascist David Duke during his KKK “election campaign” for governor in 1991. When comrades came down to New Orleans for a conference of death penalty abol­itionists in the spring of 1991, and during numerous sub drives, Howard was a willing host and participant.

In July 1990, Howard wrote to us in Atlanta to thank the Partisan Defense Committee for its fight against legal lynching in the death belt, commending those with the “courage and good sense to muster the forces of labor (black and white) to liberate the class-war prisoners to save Mumia Abu-Jamal.” Howard was the public face of that work in New Orleans. His last assignment was to dis­tribute with his usual enthusiasm the WV supplement on the protests against the latest verdict in the case of the cops who beat Rodney King.

When comrades passed through New Orleans on vacation, he indulged a shared penchant for fine food and wine, and reveled in showing friends where the best and cheapest shrimp po’boy could be found. (In fact, while in Chicago, Howard parlayed his expert knowledge of wines into a mid-level management position at an import company, but resigned because he could not abide being a regional outpost in the Deep South. His last assignment was to direct a used-book store with a zeal to find some volumes the PRL was looking for.) Howard was an avid hunter, a classical music lover, a generous, occasionally overbearing, but in this he was motivated to get things right.

Last summer Howard wrote of his “enormously rewarding” visit to New York where he “did some PDC work, went on a sale, spent a wonderful after­noon at the PRL [Prome­theus Research Library], saw many old friends.” He came back to New Orleans as if coming back to New Orleans. He had a special interest in the Ameri­can Civil War, and at the time of his death he was writing a paper on Lay Love­stone, the right-wing CP leader who went on to become a government “labor” operative.

That we have been robbed of this com­passionate man so suddenly is a sad shock to us. To Howard, especially his brother Alex, sister Cecilia. Jack Chilton and Amellie Moody, we offer our heartfelt condolences. The party has suffered the loss of an intellectually stimulating and precious sympathizer in his lifetime out of the Far­West. As we go forward, we will remember Howard with abiding affection.
Fourth Reich Jails Ex-DDR Chief

Free Erich Honecker!

BERLIN—Having hounded him ever since they deposed East Germany two years ago, the rulers of German imperialism have finally gotten Erich Honecker in their clutches. The former leader of the former German Democratic Republic (DDR) was kidnapped from the Chilean embassy in Moscow, where he had taken refuge since last December. Honecker flew to Berlin where special police squads had been on 24-hour alert waiting for him. On orders from the Social Democrats’ top witchhunter Jutta Limbach, SPD “justice” minister of the Berlin state government, they locked him up in the over intact with its Nazi judges and torture chambers. Upon his arrival in Berlin, our comrades of the Spartakist Workers Party (SpAD) protested and distributed a press release at Berlin’s Tegel Airport, demanding “Freedom for Erich Honecker!” They also protested before the gates of the Moabit prison, where they were joined by a group of immigrant and German youth who unfurled a huge Soviet flag. Because Honecker’s capture is the high point of the most aggressive witchhunt since the Third Reich, the SpAD protests were widely noted in the European and German press.

The prosecution of Honecker is part of the campaign of vengeance following capitalist reunification which is directed against everything recalling the former East German deformed workers state. Jailed with him in Moabit prison is former DDR state security minister Erich Mielke, who is on trial in Moabit on the basis of charges brought against him as a young Communist by the Nazis through “evidence” extracted by Gestapo torture! Former DDR border guards are being persecuted for serving the Communist class interests. The Gestapo is fighting to put the coup leaders responsible for the murder of 6 million Jews and millions of Communists, Slavs, Gypsies throughout Europe and the deaths of over 20 million Soviet citizens! The bourgeoisie of Auschwitz seeks to wipe off the guilt for genocide by putting the former head of the DDR on trial on charges of issuing an order which led to 187 people being shot to death on its borders—over a space of 28 years.

The pretext for Honecker’s seizure, among that of other leaders of the DDR like former defense minister Heinz Kessler, who fought with the Red Army against the Wehrmacht, and former prime minister Willi Stoph, and for bringing additional charges against Mielke, is an alleged order to shoot border violators fleeing the DDR issued by the National Defense Council in 1974. Berlin, the site of the 1973 putsch, where Honecker and his Communist movement opposed the rapid reunification of all Germany, has been transformed into a fortress of anti-revolutionary, Stalinist law. In contrast to West Germany, the DDR granted asylum to hundreds of South Africans and Namibians and to several thousand Chilean refugees fleeing Pinochet’s 1973 putsch. (One of those was Chudomiro Almeyda; until recently, Chile’s ambassador to Moscow, with whom Honecker found refuge for the last seven months despite the enormous pressure of German imperialism and the reactionary establishment in Chile where Pinochet is still commander-in-chief of the army.) Compare that to the “democratic” United States: with its exile raids in L.A., barrios, its Coast Guard “deportations” of Haitian refugees captured in international waters and its support to Pinochet while banning Chilean refugees. Or to the new SPD-backed German refugee law providing for concentration camps and “speedy” deportations.

Let us be clear: the Berlin Wall was built at the height of the Cold War during a capitalist campaign, heavily orchestrated by the CIA, to disrupt the working East German economy by bleeding it of skilled labor. The Wall continued on page 6.
Honecker...

(continued from page 5)

constituted a defense, albeit in a bureaucratic manner, of the collectivized economy of the DDR. That was why the bourgeoisie hated the Wall, and why we Trotskyists defended it in the struggle for a red Soviet Germany as part of a Socialist United States of Europe.

So an average of seven people a year were killed by East German border guards defending the DDR workers state against imperialist economic sabotage. Meanwhile, in the United States, in 1990 alone, the racist Los Angeles cops routinely gunned down 62 people, according to a recent Amnesty International report! The New York Times (31 July) grotesquely declares that a trial offers "a chance to expose the cruelty, hypocrisy and self-delusion of Mr. Honecker's inner circle!" How about a trial to expose the cruelty, hypocrisy and self-delusion of Ron Brown, George Bush's inner circle, which last year ordered the wanted massacre of over 100,000 Iraqis? The blood-drenched bourgeoisie has no right to "try" Honecker.

A victorious workers revolution in Germany would have its own score to settle with the Stalinists for their real crimes against the working class, such as allowing Hitler to march to power without a fight in 1931-33, turning over German Communists to Stalin's firing squads in the late 1930s (or even, during the Hitler-Stalin pact, sending them back to Hitler's Germany), sabotaging a fight for socialist revolution in all Ger-

many in 1945 in the wake of the Red Army victory, and putting down the 1953 workers uprising against the Ulbricht regime. But defending the DDR workers state (naturally in a bureaucratically deformed manner) was not one of those crimes. Selling out the DDR was!

Honecker has just published a book, On Dramatic Events, in which he denies the office of the major capitalist powers for counterrevolution that breeds mass immobilization and new imperialist wars. He is attacking Gorbachev's perestroika and the Gorbachevites within his own party, the Modrowsiaks, who sold out to the DDR. Yet he can offer no alternative but the class-collaborationist lie of "peaceful coexistence" and "socialist internationalism," and the nationalist myth of "building socialism in one country" (or in the case of the DDR, in a country a century behind the rest of the world).

In his final chapters Honecker claims to be the "true patriot," recalling Stalin's offer of a "democratic, neutral Germany" as the imperialists were gearing up the Cold War and the rearmament of West Germany and West Europe. But the conservative, nationalistic bourgeoisie could only govern through anti-working-class repression, atomizing the anti-Stalinist opposition, while Stalinist "reformers" would introduce "market mechanisms" that undermine collectivized property, thus attacking the bulwarks of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The IAD, section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist), was the only organization in the working class that understood what was at stake and opposed capitalist reunification and fought for a proletarian political revolution in the DDR. In January 1990 the IAD proposed a massive, united-front anti-fascist demonstration at the Treptow Red Army war memorial in Berlin. Taken up by the West German governing party, the SPD/SED, it brought out a quarter million people, the largest anti-fascist demonstration in Germany, putting the bourgeoisie together with the SPD/SED leadership saw in that powerful pro- working class demonstration the spectre of civil war. Following Treptow the bourgeoisie brought its weapons against the IAD and its scores of thousands of militants were thrown in jail.

The German bourgeoisie, assisted by its SPD "bloodhounds," is using this crusade to demonize communism and to atomize the working people of eastern Germany in the face of the catastrophic workers movement in the DDR. In Bonn there is an all-party front in the Bundestag waging a vicious racist campaign against the former Yugoslavia, the Frankfurter Bankers and Bonn politicians want to finance their conquest of the East by increasing the rate of exploitation and slashing social benefits of workers in West Germany.

Yet the West German labor movement is not taking that lying down: besides being sold out, the recently powerful public sector and transport workers strike evolved solidarity strikes in the East and shook German capital. Union opposition to current plans to slash health benefits which affect all workers sharpened in the workers East and West, immigrant and German. Hate for the Kohl government and his SPD handmaiden is even generating a backlash against their anti-Crushomonist Crusade. But to defend itself, the SPD is stepping up its attacks on the witchhunt headed on: Freedom for Honecker, Mielec, Stipe and Kessler! Hands off Markus Wolf! No prosecution of the DDR border guards! Freedom and honor for the anti-fascist hero Böglel! Stop the anti-Communist witchhunt!
In high-spirited mockery of the Women’s Action Coalition (WAC) and their anti-communist ban, the Spartacist League zapped WAC, big time, at their July 29 meeting in New York City. Brushing past a security guard who spuered about orders banning leftist groups from “private property,” our comrades set up a literature table and an eye-catching billboard warning, “Big Brother’s little sister WAC is watching!” Better get your Workers Vanguard swiftly, quietly! Onik if you love censorship! Bans were made to be broken!

We can hardly claim to have received a “positive” response, but we sure had the joint jumping! One woman insisted that WAC was “full of PhD’s” and “too smart for candy-coated Marxism,” and as for the working class, the new Dennis Rivera (head of hospital workers Local 1199). When we retorted that Rivera wouldn’t pull out his members to defend abortion clinics because he’s in the pocket of anti-abortion Cardinal O’Connor, she squealed, “Why would Dennis Rivera support abortion?” and turned on her high heels to summon security.

The security guard reappeared and threatened to kick over our table, and to bring his dog next week. But we quickly brought him to his senses by threatening to scream for 50 women to come out front for defense, and threatening man. “Please don’t do that!” begged WAC’s “facilitator.” WAC’s drum corps finally stopped beating in protest over a young male Workers Vanguard salesman, and an apoplectic whale who verbally abused and physically threatened other Spartacist members finally subdued on the advice of her own ilk.

Meanwhile, members of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) found themselves tightly stuck between a rock and a hard place. They should choose WAC in WAC they must reverse the ban on “political groups.” But they exclude genuine Trotskyists like us from their own meetings and have no appetite for openly fighting for their views. Our zap attack on LEV and Sam zapped one, “There for other ways to fight this,” hissed one. Finally one ISOer came out with Socialist Realism to “raise consciousness” in the WAC’s political quest to replace the bankrupt anti-communist ban—while her comrades wrangled to bring his dog next week. But we quickly

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- We in the Spartacist League are proud to fly our own colors. At the June 13 march in defense of abortion rights, cops clearing the way for Cardinal O’Connor set upon and arrested eleven protesters, including four Spartacist supporters carrying signs proclaiming, “Down with Bush, Break with the Democrats; Workers Vanguard!” From Warsaw to Berlin to Dublin to New York, abortion rights have always been the first line of defense of all human rights. The workers movement is the only force to fly our own colors. At the June 13 march in defense of abortion rights, cops clearing the way for Cardinal O’Connor set upon and arrested eleven protesters, including four Spartacist supporters carrying signs proclaiming, “Down with Bush, Break with the Democrats; Workers Vanguard!” From Warsaw to Berlin to Dublin to New York, abortion rights have always been the first line of defense of all human rights. The workers movement is the only force to

Ssshhhh... WAC is watching. The Women Against Communists (WAC) have declared in the name of Marx and Lenin that fighting for their views. The workers movement is the only force to fight over the Democratic Party’s long agenda, the point was tabled and not discussed. Way to go, comrades! We in the Spartacist League are proud to fly our own colors. At the June 13 march in defense of abortion rights, cops clearing the way for Cardinal O’Connor set upon and arrested eleven protesters, including four Spartacist supporters carrying signs proclaiming, “Down with Bush, Break with the Democrats; Workers Vanguard!” From Warsaw to Berlin to Dublin to New York, abortion rights have always been the first line of defense of all human rights. The workers movement is the only force to fight over the Democratic Party’s long agenda, the point was tabled and not discussed. Way to go, comrades! We in the Spartacist League are proud to fly our own colors. 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Soviet Workers...
(continued from page 1)

possibility of a massive social explosion.
Yeltsin banked on imperialist dollars and deutschemarks to finance his counterrevolutionary drive. In June he went to Washington to sign away the core of the Soviet army's nuclear defense—the multiple-warhead SS-18 and SS-24 missiles—but got nothing in return. The International Monetary Fund bankers' cartel continues to demand more blood. Grandiose promises of a vague $24 billion aid package evaporate as the IMF withholds even the first billion unless Russia slashes its budget deficit by two-thirds, privatizes state-owned industry and cuts off subsidies to bankrupt enterprises—all of which Yeltsin is forced to resist the IMF ultimatum to jack up domestic oil prices to world market rates, which would completely wreck industry dependent on cheap energy.

It is clear to all that this chaotic situation cannot long continue as it is. The wheels of industry can no longer continue to turn on the basis of IOUs—more than two trillion rubles, almost $20 billion, since January. The government's privatization scheme (based on doling out coupons to the workers which can be converted into cash) would produce hyperinflation on the scale of Weimar Germany if all its flaws are growing on all sides for a "strong government" to "save Russia." Sergei Baburin, a leading spokesman for the "patriots" of the "Russian Unity" bloc in the parliament, claims: "By the end of this year we shall almost certainly have an iron-fisted dictatorship in this country. The only question is, what kind?"
The International Communist League (Fourth International) warns: In the absence of mass organized working-class resistance and with the Soviet army in increasing disarray, the danger is sharply posed that the forces of capitalist restoration will be able to consolidate a bourgeois state, however fragile, unleashing a bloodbath against workers and national minorities.

Politically atomized and paralyzed by decades of Stalinist bureaucratization and betrayal, the Soviet workers are today being offered nothing but the most retrograde nationalism by Stalin's heirs. The situation has grown rotten and overripe. It is urgently necessary to cohere an internationalist cadre in an all-Union Leninist Trotskyist nucleus firmly committed to the program of the October Revolution, before every vestige of the revolution is swept away.

Counterrevolution Seeks a "Strong State"
As the milieu of yappie intellectuals and speculators around Yeltsin has dissipated, representatives of the managers of state-owned industry have moved into the corridors of government. In July a "Civic Union" bloc was formed by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoi, a former military officer, who recently surpassed Yeltsin in the polls; Arkady Volsky, a former aide to CP leaders Andropov and Gorbachev, now head of the powerful "Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs" which controls two-thirds of industry; and Nikolai Travin, head of the virulently anti-Communist Democratic Party. In May three industrial figures associated with Volksy were appointed to Yeltsin's cabinet, apparently undercutting the sway of his "free market" economic czar Yegor Gaidar. Some Western commentators worried that Yeltsin's recent appointments would slow down the capitalist "reforms," noting that the "military-industrial complex" was the base of support for last year's failed coup plotters. But no less an imperialist spokesman than the New York Times (2 August) gives the new cabinet ministers "solid credentials as advocates of a free market system." This only underlines our comment at the time of the August fracas that it was a "perestroika coup" of elements of the bureauc-

racy that also aimed at restoration of capitalism, but at a slower pace and under their control. Where the yappie speculators would like to destroy the country's industrial capacity to satisfy imperialist dictates, the factory managers chafe that the IMF will destroy the enterprises they someday hope to own outright.

In turn, shifts in the army have brought another trio to the fore: Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who ordered troops to defend Yeltsin last year; Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov, former commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan; and Major General Aleksandr Lebed, head of the army unit outside Yeltsin's "White House" last August, and now head of the Russian (formerly Soviet) 14th Army in Moldova. Grachev, Lebed and Rutskoi all served under Gromov in Afghanistan. While the so-called "patriotic opposition," spearheaded by hardline Stalinist has-beens who now find themselves shunted aside, rails against Yeltsin's sellouts to the West, all of these groupings and layers converge around Russian nationalism and forces who are determined to restore capitalism with an iron hand. And their overriding need is to forge a state apparatus capable of suppressing the workers.

From the moment he gained the ascendency Yeltsin has been working feverishly to consolidate a bourgeois state. He now appears to have a repressive force loyal to the counterrevolutionary regime, in the elite Russian OMON units, OMON squads were unleashed against a Soviet Army Day march in February, again in June to disperse demonstrators outside Moscow's Ostankino television center, and to tear down the one Soviet flag which was still flying over a public building in Leningrad. At the same time, the trial currently under way in Moscow of the banned Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) as a "criminal" organization aims at sending a warning to potentially recalcitrant elements in the apparatus as well as to all who would resist the restorationist drive.

Yeltsin has begun building up an exclusively Russian army, and the Soviet Navy has begun flying the old tsarist naval emblem, the St. Andrew's cross. As fighting escalates between the ethnic Romanian Moldovan-nationalist regime of Mercea Steguin and Russian-speaking nationalists in the Transdniester region, there are increasing calls for a full-scale Russian military intervention. General Lebed of the 14th Army denounced the Steguin regime as "fascist," and at least one battalion is fighting alongside the Russian-speaking irregulars and Cosack "volunteers" in Transnistria.

Stalinist groups like the Russian Communist Workers Party (IKKP), chief organizers of anti-Yeltsin protests, increasingly dispense with even lip service to the cause of socialism as they sign on as drum majors in the sinister chauvinist crusade. The "patriots" seek to cohere a "strong state" by playing the card of Great Russian chauvinism and anti-Semitism. While Pamyat and other fascists now parade with impunity through the streets of Leningrad, a June 12 conference in Moscow of the Russian National Synod, the Sochor, marked an important stage in the strengthening of more powerful fascist-corporatist forces.

**Russian-Language Spartanist Bulletin No. 3**

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- Women's Emancipation and the Struggle Against Imperialism
- Defend Homosexuals Against Persecution!
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WORKERS VANGUARD
In order to consolidate its hold, the nascent bourgeoisie would have to go beyond a transitional regime to consolidate "more secure and exclusive power. In all probability, a Bonapartist or, more accurately, a popular-frontist 'Savior' movement on the lines of Great Russian chauvinism." 

After last August's coup and counterrevolution, the reappearance of the Stalinists' bloc with the old Stalinist rhetoric from the podium. This serves not to mobilize but to demobilize workers in search of struggle. The sinister gathering of the Slavophile Sobor on June 12 included monarchists, black-shirted fascists and Cossacks in full regalia—just as the RKRP Reportedly financed by the head of the Nizhni Novgorod stock exchange and headed by "former" KGB general Alexander Sterligov, who sided with Yeltsin last August and has worked under Rutskoi, the Sobor noted that the Yeltsin regime is an "administration of national treason" which is "Russophobic and Jew-hating," and declared that a "shadow government" has been formed and is ready to take power immediately. The conference issued a series of notables like writer Valentin Raspavin, who raved that "Communism was an evil that won over the country," and "the Protocols of the Elders of Zion," illustrated with a photograph of Yeltsin standing in front of a Star of David. Nevzorov, Zhirinovsky and Makashov denounced comrade Trotsky, who are carriers of this ideology." 

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On Monday and Tuesday, Johannesburg's wards were deserted. Factories were silent, stores shut, schools closed, and mass transit was at a virtual standstill, thanks to the absence of the millions of black workers without whom the South African economy grinds to a halt. In the townships, in Soweto and Daveyton large crowds marched on precincts to protest kickoffs.

The ANC, which was compiiied by its mass base to call the general strike, tried to keep it going by issuing a variety of directives. A deal with the gold bars and Joburg stockbrokers to replace the strike with a voluntary "national shutdown" failed when the De Klerk regime ordered employers to make no concessions to the strikers. By his victory in last March's white-only referendum, De Klerk has been repressive laws through parliament, calling in thousands of reservists, and hints at a return to the state of emergency.

South Africa... Outraged township residents chased De Klerk out of Boipatong on 20th day after government-instigated Inkatha massacre.

The regime finally attempted to disrupt the ANC with a deliberate move to seize control of the labor union movement, orchestrating the Soweto Day massacre of 43 in Boipatong township.

In the suburb of Soweto, the apartheid forces moved 5,000 additional troops into the townships on the eve of the strike. Demonstration took place as tanks and personnel carriers continued to rumble west. The strike was initially managed to bring down the De Klerk government and install an interim government. Black workers and township youth who had already begun preparing. South Africa is in the midst of an economic crisis in which 650,000 lost their jobs in 1992—more than the number in the previous year.

De Klerk, that the crescendo of class struggle, but the government-orchestrated campaign of violence that has killed over 3,000 people in the last three days.

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The next week, the Parliament, including several British criminologists, to "evaluate" the police investigations. Their report was a predictable whitewash of the police account while slapping the government's wrist for "inadequate planning." The next week, the government announced that it would not allow any independent monitoring of the strike, even though workers had died. When it became clear that there would be no independent bodies overseeing the strike, Union leaders met with the government and reached an agreement to accept the ANC's "ministerial" arm.

The ANC's strategy of fomenting intercommunal warfare to terrorize the black masses and then blaming the government for "black-on-black violence" backfired when the government's "hidden hand" became all too clear in the Boipatong slaughter. Not only did hundreds of witnesses see the army bring in Inkatha death squads, it later became known that a unit of the notorious (and supposedly disbanded) Krivets "crowners") paramilitary force, based at a nearby Goldfields mining compound, took part in the massacre. In protest, the 500,000 inkatha members refused to work until the Inkatha leaders were removed from office.

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Pittsburgh Workers
(continued from page 12)

Butterfield got them to know what they had coming. Shouts of “Homestead 1892, Pittsburgh 1992!” rang out, recalling the battle against Carnegie’s Pinkertonos who invaded Homestead, Pennsylvania during that strike.

Strikers jammed up against the Press building on the Boulevard exploded in rage when the press set up around 5 am. By 6:00, with the crowd down to about 2,000, cops, reinforced by sheriffs and the narcotics SWAT team (1), brought out their riot gear, including four-foot clubs. Self described what happened to the backs inside the wall. Work started to move and the cops tried to clear the pickets:

“We made our first surge, they backed us off about two feet and then we made our rearguard. We went right back into the lot, and they couldn’t push us out. One of our guys said, ‘quick, sit down, can’t move all I’ll say. I said a good 500 or so people musroomed out of the lot. Faith backed us off.”

After the pickets sat down in the driveway, they filled two wagons with their pickets. Their places were quickly filled and the cops soon gave up. Not one truck got through for a few or “Brecht windows.” Among the 39 arrested that morning was the striking traffic director not only striking drivers but also carpenters, heavy equipment operators, steel workers and warehousemen bailed out by the unions’ Unity Council.

Pittsburgh workers showed all labor a crucial lesson: how to defend the picket line and back down the cops and rent-a-thugs and stopped the scabs cold. Coming on the heels of the UAW bureaucracy’s betrayal and capitulation at Caterpillar near three months ago, Pittsburgh workers showed organizers the way.

After years of the union tops playing by the bosses’ rules and sinking strike after strike, the days of the Democratic Party masters are gone. I’ll be across the state line in no time. Last year there was a new low in the USW’s relationship with the labor bureaucracy which began as anti-Communist Cold Warriors at home and abroad. Today’s bureaucratic setup and the wholesale destruction of union gains. Last year UAW Leadership, who once worked in the mills along the Monongahela Valley, is fighting to preserve a “New World Order.” But with the economic dead in the water, the rulers of this country have run up against explosions of anger in the ghettos and barrios—from L.A. to NYC—and now they’re getting ready to sell us out in a class struggle.

The current strikebreakdown didn’t begin with Reagan; the Democrats Carter and Mondale hit the miners with Taft-Hartley and fed the bosses. Howard” was waiting for the Press Company’s next move. Some 100 men had been brought into town during the night. Roving pickets were dispatched to suburban distribution sites, where scabs and rent-a-thugs were working and sleeping in abandoned supermarkets. Only a few thousand people reached the streets, and hundreds of those were piled up against the front door of the Press building during the day by angry Pittsburgh workers as the pickets cheered. This is a union town.

“This paper company is screaming like a stuck pig. Mayor Sophie Masthoff, facing a solid front of area unions, had declared the white hoods would be permitted to perform by non-union out-of-towners. Allegheny County judge Lee Mazur put off a hearing on an injunction until the day July 28. And as union strike supporters left the picket line to go to work, others went to suburban distribution sites and offices to replace them.

During the afternoon a few hundred workers continued to man the lines. A contingent of miners came from UMW Local 9636, on strike for three years outside Altoona. Two men from Coal Company Press (“selective strike” strategy has left strike after strike to twist in the wind. State workers in AFSCME, Machinists, UFCW workers who had struck Giant Eagle foods for six weeks last summer were there. Building trades coming off work said they were ready for a citywide strike.

A few steel workers were on the lines, only a shadow or two of the millions who once worked in the furnaces and mills along the Monongahela Valley until big steel shut down here. We used to be orange with the dust and dirt from the mills in the Mon Valley. The Press strikers have seen the capitalists destroy tens of thousands of union jobs in steel. On a July 28 ABC Nightline, “‘the whole thing was, it was a smoke screen, a cover up” USWA Local 1397 grievance chairman Mike Stout described the destruction of the Homestead plant. U.S. Steel.

“I went through a plant shutdown; I saw 6,000 people I work with lose their jobs. I saw five people within a year commit suicide. 71 people I know personally die of strokes, heart attacks and cancer. The (Press) strikers and their families know what’s in store for them.”

What happened at Homestead was repeated up and down the Mon Valley. Between 1979 and 1987 the Pittsburgh area lost 127,500 manufacturing jobs, half of those in basic steel (John P. Hoff). And the Wolf Finally Came—The Decline of the American Steel Industry, Pitts­burgh, 1988). In the three decades between 1958 and 1987 the Pittsburgh area lost 70 percent of its manufacturing jobs. The late Professor Neil Mitchell contrasted corporate headquarters to the front door of the Press building during the day by angry Pittsburgh workers as the pickets cheered. This is a union town.

“This was striking people blocked the entrance. Many of the strikers have 15 to 20 years working in the fields of southern New Mexico. They chanted ‘Out, Out” to a back-to-work order. But UTAF organ­izers, citing union lawyers, who always said you what you got in the books and opened up an aisle to let the scabs through. Angry strikers said, “This is no picket line. This isn’t how they strike in Mexico— they shut it down!”

At a picket last Thursday, 500 strik­ers were surrounded by state police and migra agents, and sprayed with pepper gas by county sheriff’s deputies. A number of workers were sent to the hospital vom­iting. But the strikers are defiant. Mario Sosa said the strike was “our only hope.

Report from New Mexico
Farm Workers Strike

EL PASO, August 3—We left the hall of the Border Agricultural Workers Union (UTAF) early this morning in four vans, headed for Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The striking chile pepper pickers organized by UTAF decided to target Loyd Anderson, who farms 35,000 acres near the border, as the earliest, and a victory here will set the scale for the whole valley. Anderson provoked the strike by paying only 85 cents for a ten-gallon bucket of jalapenos, far less than minimum wage and two cents less than last year. The grower is paying scabs as young as 85 cents less than last year. The grower is paying scabs as young as eleven years old as little as $13 a day. At the farm, about 70 pickets were able to convince at least 50 workers not to scab, but almost that many crossed. As the picket line grew, workers blocked the entrance. Many of the strikers have 15 to 20 years working in the fields of southern New Mexico. They chanted “Out, Out” to a back-to-work order. But UTAF organ­izers, citing union lawyers, who always said you what you got in the books and opened up an aisle to let the scabs through. Angry strikers said, “This is no picket line. This isn’t how they strike in Mexico—they shut it down!”

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I’ve got children to feed but I refuse to bow down to exploiters and cheats.”

Last week UTAF, which is fighting to organize the 10,000 workers in this $60 million a year industry, appealed to other unionists in the area, including Steelworkers at the big ASARCO smelter and Phelps Dodge workers, to come to their aid. With the looming “Free Trade Agreement” emboldening the capitalists to drive down wages and working conditions in the border area, UTAF is fighting for everyone. As we go to press a settlement is reported which would establish certain union­ rights. Bring out the power of labor on both sides of the border—including “hot copping” scab produce—to organize the whole industry!

Iron City—A Union Town

Monday morning, strikers outside what they dubbed “Fort Scripp­
Pittsburgh Workers Play Hardball

PITTSBURGH—"We whipped them. They took on the Teamsters and can't handle it," a Pittsburgh Press newspaper driver proudly declared. The Press had tried to run a scab paper for two days. But they were met by thousands of workers who massed in front of the plant. As word traveled down the line that the Press was suspending publication, picketers cheered.

Another driver said the stakes were high: "This was where a stand had to be taken." To hell with begging the capitalist Congress for bills against "replacement workers." You stop scabs by mobilizing the power of labor!

After a decade and more of vicious union-busting coast to coast—after PATCO, Greyhound, Hor­mel, Eastern and Caterpillar—the mass pickets outside the scab Press said: It stops here! As we go to press, the company claims the scabs are leaving town. But Press Co. is still demanding the elimination of hundreds of jobs. They're trying to get back from the federal mediator at the bargaining table what they lost in the streets. Press workers: Don't be suckered! You've won a big round, now keep the bosses and their scabs on the run! Occupy the plant and ring it with pickets—Stop the Press!

For over two months, Teamster drivers of Local 211 stood solid against the Press. (The morning Post-Gazette, which is published by the Press Company as part of a joint operating agreement, was also shut down.) The Scripps-Howard owners of the Press, who are out to wipe out the drivers' jobs and over 4,500 youth carriers, announced in mid-July they would resume publication after the 24th. So the stage was set for a showdown. Teamster negotiator and spokes­man Joe Pass declared, "If they want to play hardball, we'll play hardball."

On Sunday evening, July 26, shortly after 5:00 p.m., the Teamsters threw up picket lines at the Press Company building. Until then, the Teamster tops had refused to set up lines and call on the other newspaper unions to strike. The Press has continued to publish a twice-weekly scab rag called the Allegheny Bulletin, which is brought into the city by Teamster UPS drivers and mailed by union postal workers.

But now unionists from all over the city poured onto the Boulevard of the Allies. Strike headquarters is in the Steelworkers building next door to the Press. A steamfitter told WTV: "This is a crucial last stand for labor in Western Pennsylvania." There were electricians, carpenters and hundreds of other building tradesmen. Teamsters from sister locals in freight, delivery and warehouse came wearing "Stop Scabs" T-shirts. Machinists, AFSCME and Service Employees came out.

Mass Pickets Stop the Press

By Sunday midnight over 5,000 workers were prepared for battle. David Sell, a Teamster driver later arrested stopping the scab trucks, told WTV: "The street was full from that red light to this red light all the way across; it was the greatest thing you've ever seen." Chants of "Union, Union!" and "Scabs Go Home!" rang through downtown. When negotiations recessed in the Hilton across the street, thousands of pickets ringed the block including the Press building.

Picketers knew the strikebreakers had pick handles inside. Strikers yelled at the hated brownshirt thugs from Security. Continued on page 11

Unionists face down cops, block scab delivery trucks in successfully stopping delivery of the Press. Scab paper goes down in flames.