

## Stop Deportations, Racist Attacks!

### Government, RCMP Declare War on Immigrants

The brittle facade of tolerance, liberal "multiculturalism" which masks the brutal oppression of racial and ethnic minorities in Canada has been cracking recently under the pressure of deepening economic recession and the highest unemployment levels since the Great Depression. While striving to shore up the sagging profits of Canadian business through wage controls and budget cuts, the capitalist state (backed by the bourgeois media) is seeking to further divide and weaken the working class by scapegoating minorities--above all immigrants and the Québécois--for the economic crisis and social decay.

The federal government's Green Paper on immigration provoked outraged protests at public hearings across the country during 1975. Today, the Green Paper proposals, slightly laundered to remove the most blatant racist phraseology, are before the House of Commons in the form of a new immigration bill. As our "representatives" in Ottawa prepare to enact this repressive legislation, the media campaign against immigrants which the Green Paper helped to launch has been intensified.

#### RACIST BRUTALITY IN TORONTO

An NBC television documentary in early January described the racial situation in Toronto as "a time bomb ticking away." Recently, there have been a number of brutal racist attacks on Asian immigrants by white punks in the city's subways. The RCMP has been relentlessly pursuing and deporting "illegal"



HAITIAN WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST DEPORTATIONS IN MONTREAL, EARLY 1975.

immigrants--an average of 175 people a month are reportedly deported from Toronto alone. Immigration officials have been raiding factories and other workplaces in search of "illegals"; to cite only one example, in early March a foreign worker at the Ford Motor Company plant in Oakville was snatched up and expelled from Canada.

Victims of racist assaults are immediately investigated by immigration authorities to determine whether they may be allowed to remain in the country. Some victims of the immigration department dragnet do not even make it this far: in one recent incident, a Trinidadian woman named Patricia Forde fell to her death from the fourteenth floor of a Mississauga apartment building while trying to escape im-

(continued on page 2)

<b>INSIDE:</b>	<i>Hands off Hardial Bains!</i> .....	3
	GMR's "Workers Republic of Quebec": Nationalist Trap for Quebec Workers .....	5
	The Acadians: Language Rights & Nationalism .....	8

# DEPORTATIONS...

(continued from page 1)

migration officials. She was fourteen weeks pregnant at the time.

When the East Indian Defense Committee (EIDC-- a group supported by the Communist Party of Canada [Marxist-Leninist]) called on members of Toronto's immigrant communities to organize self-defense against racist attacks, it was met by an anti-communist tirade from newspapers, city officials and black and Asian liberals. Metro Toronto Police Chief Harold Adamson issued a thinly-veiled threat, warning that "arming themselves may not solve the problem but only leave them open to charges" (Contrast, 27 January). A month later, the threat was made good, as EIDC and CPC(M-L) leader Hardial Bains and several other party supporters were arrested in an RCMP immigration raid in Waterloo (see story on facing page).

Adamson "promised" increased police patrols in the subways and a token East Indian member of the police force; but the victims of stepped-up police harassment of minorities understand that the cops --defenders of capital's racist rule--will not defend them against racist attacks. The bosses' police must not be allowed their monopoly of armed force--immigrant communities should have the right to organize in self-defense against racist attacks. However, communists point out that, particularly given the relatively small size of each immigrant community, only the strength of the integrated labor movement can provide a solid bulwark against racist assault.

When Bennie Lenard, a black member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 6 in Chicago, was savagely beaten and jailed by police in the white suburb of Melrose Park last January, the local established a defense committee which is fighting to have all the frame-up charges against him dropped, and is seeking full restitution for his injuries and loss of pay. Two years ago, the same UAW local set up a union defense squad to stop the racist attacks on another black member who was seeking to move into a house in a largely white area of town. The Labor Struggle Caucus, a class-struggle opposition group in the local, initiated the call for the union defense

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**WL EXCLUSIONISM  
DENOUNCED**

**Trotsky film**

An ad in The Globe and Mail, dated Feb. 18, alerted me to a public showing of Trotsky: His Life and Work, a film of historical and political interest. Upon arriving at the screening room, however, I discovered that the sponsors of the showing, the Workers' League-Young Socialists were denying entry to members of another political party, the Trotskyist League. I am not a member of these or any other parties, and yet felt outraged that what was publicized as a public showing in fact was not open to all. This sort of transgression against basic freedoms is abhorrent and should not be condoned.

John Lamb  
Toronto

**GLOBE & MAIL,  
28 February**

You recent article  
termed Not Enough--Feb  
to comment on the deplorable  
care facilities throughout the province  
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guard and is active today in the Bennie Lenard Defense Committee. Militant labor actions such as these are key to the defense of Toronto's immigrant minorities as well.

### NEW IMMIGRATION BILL: CARTE BLANCHE FOR REACTION

The government's new immigration legislation, while in large part a simple updating of existing discriminatory immigration laws, includes draconian new provisions, ostensibly for the control of terrorism and organized crime, but applicable equally against leftist opponents of any existing government. Persons "who there are reasonable grounds to believe are likely to engage in acts of espionage or subversion against democratic government, institutions or processes, as they are understood in Canada" would be excluded from the country, as would anyone who might "instigate subversion by force of any government." Even political refugees who fall into these categories are to be denied asylum. This would exclude most refugees from right-wing dictatorships throughout the world. Under the legislation, the Minister of Immigration (or, in the case of landed immigrants, the Governor-in-Council advised by a Special Advisory Board) can issue a deportation order against anyone branded as a "criminal" or "subversive," without disclosing any evidence and with no right of appeal.

Other provisions require that landlords, schools and businesses demand proof of an applicant's legal right to be in the country or be subject to \$5,000 in fines and two years imprisonment. To aid in the enforcement of this law, provision is made for compulsory fingerprinting and photographing of all non-citizens--the first steps toward a pass system. Residents of more than five years would lose their immunity from deportation, and would be subject to removal for "subversive" or "criminal" activities or for

(continued on page 11)

**4 SPARTACIST**  
**CANADA**

Published monthly by the Spartacist Canada Publishing Association, Box 6867, Station A, Toronto, Ontario.

Editor: John Masters  
Production Manager: P. Mooney  
Circulation Manager: C. Ames  
Business Manager: Murray Smith

Signed articles do not necessarily express the editorial viewpoint.  
Printed in a union shop by union labor.

## Maoist Leader Arrested in RCMP Raid

# Hands off Hardial Bains!

A series of immigration raids by the RCMP and regional police on the Norman Bethune Institute in Waterloo on February 23 led to the arrest of several members and supporters of the Maoist Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (CPC[M-L]). Charges were laid against seventeen people--among them Fred Mason, an "illegal" immigrant from the United States, and Hardial Bains, the organization's



HARDIAL BAINS

Alive

National Chairman. Following the arrests, Mason--who was deported from Canada in 1970 following his conviction on charges of causing a disturbance and contempt of court--was summarily expelled from the country again, while the others arrested face charges of aiding an "illegal" to enter the country and of assaulting police.

Bains, an immigrant from India who has repeatedly been denied Canadian citizenship because of his political activities, faces possible deportation should he be convicted. As the leader of CPC(M-L) and spokesman for the East Indian Defense Committee, Bains has long been a target of reactionary anti-communist and anti-immigrant crusades aimed at bolstering the racist status quo. His arrest, along with those of his comrades, is part of the Canadian state's escalating offensive against immigrants and leftists, and must be vigorously opposed by the left and workers movement, immigrant communities and all defenders of democratic rights.

The Stalin/Enver Hoxha worshippers of the megalomaniacal CPC(M-L) have a long and sordid history of sectarianism and gangsterism against other Canadian left groups. To date their campaign against the arrests has been conducted in a criminally, albeit typically, sectarian manner. The "Organizing Committee to found the Canadian People's (Citizens' and

Residents') Defense Committee," which was established to protest the Waterloo arrests, demands that all those wishing to defend Bains also endorse CPC(M-L)'s bankrupt political strategy for a "democratic people's republic of Canada." The Trotskyist League has vast political differences with this ultra-reformist call for a prettified Canadian capitalist state, and with the rest of CPC(M-L)'s Maoist politics. Nevertheless, the TL stands in resolute solidarity with Hardial Bains and his organization against state attack, and calls for a united defense campaign to stop the government's persecution.

**DROP THE CHARGES--NO DEPORTATIONS!**

Reprinted below is a letter sent by the TL to CPC(M-L) in defense of Hardial Bains and the others arrested in Waterloo:

Trotskyist League  
Box 7198  
Station "A"  
Toronto, Ontario  
23 March 1977

National Executive  
Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

Dear comrades:

The Trotskyist League denounces the recent police raids on the Norman Bethune Institute in Waterloo and the resultant arrests of several members and supporters of CPC(M-L), including your National Chairman Hardial Bains. We demand that all the charges raised against these comrades be dropped immediately, and protest the anti-communist deportation of Frederick Mason and the deportation which threatens Hardial Bains should he be convicted. Unlike, for example, your erstwhile political collaborators in the Alive Production Collective (who hold the criminal position that "whether or not Hardial Bains is deported is of no concern to us"), we understand that any attempt by the Canadian state to deport comrade Bains is an attack on the left, immigrant communities and the entire workers movement.

Defense of the workers movement against government persecution has long been a Leninist principle, one which we have consistently upheld. We note that two years ago our predecessor organization, the Canadian Committee of the international Spartacist tendency, wrote in a letter to the East Indian Defense Committee in Vancouver:

"...In particular, we see the urgent need to defend Hardial Bains if attempts are made to deport him. Although we do not agree with the Maoist politics of CPC(M-L), we see the need for unconditional defense of Bains against deportation

(continued on page 10)

# CUPE 1230 and the Fight Against Apartheid

## *Not Phoney Cultural Boycotts, But Militant Labor Solidarity!*

Reprinted below is a letter to the University of Toronto student newspaper, The Varsity, from Jane Kirby, a member of the U of T library workers union (Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1230) and a supporter of the Trotskyist League. The letter was written in response to the resolution passed at the previous union meeting to boycott book requests from South Africa (see SC No. 14, March), and to a subsequent letter to The Varsity from the local executive which announced that the book boycott motion had been rescinded under management pressure.

At a local union meeting on March 17, executive member Kathy Beeman (a supporter of the Revolutionary Marxist Group [RMG] and architect of the book boycott motion) presented the membership with a blow-by-blow account of the whole debacle. It seems that while the executive members prided themselves for rooting out the fact that the U of T administration had no anti-apartheid policy (a discovery which must have sent chills up and down the their liberal spines), they were nevertheless unable, for all their humanitarian platitudes about justice and democracy, to convince management to accept the union's supposed "anti-Vorster" scheme.

Undeterred by her discovery of the university's racist policies, Beeman proposed that the motion be resubmitted, but with the section calling on the union members to take action deleted. What remained was a motion demanding that management institute the book boycott! Despite sentiment in favor of this position, the motion was tabled and the executive sent back to the drawing board to dream up some new liberal "anti-apartheid" scheme, since it was felt that management had already exposed its racism.

In response to Kirby's arguments that the motion could only hurt, not help, the anti-apartheid struggle, Beeman claimed that the South African requests were all science and engineering books destined for the state library in Pretoria. Doubting that there were many black doctors or engineers in South Africa, Beeman claimed that the motion could not possibly work against the struggles of the black masses. Aside from the fact that the main University of Toronto library (which has no science or engineering books) also fills interlibrary loan requests from South Africa, Beeman's arguments were mere bluster. In the Old Mole the RMG has repeatedly called for a total economic, cultural and athletic boycott of South Africa. For this reason it should make no difference to the RMG what books were sent where or to whom in South Africa.

Arguing in the same vein, Beeman and her co-thinkers on the executive defended the motion in an article printed in the union newsletter, which made an analogy between boycotting South Africa today and boycotting Nazi Germany during the 1930's. (The article asserted that management may not have been so willing to supply the Nazis with books on how better to extract gold fillings.)

In fact, the call for total international boycotts of Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy prior to WWII were, like most South Africa boycott calls today, raised by a coterie of liberal pacifists and "democratic" imperialists, with the support of the international Stalinist movement and centrists like the German SAP. The Trotskyist movement did not support such liberal and/or reactionary calls for total unlimited boycotts, and Trotsky did not mince words with the ostensible revolutionaries who supported the demand. Noting that a total trade embar-



ANTI-APARTHEID FIGHTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

AP

go could only be imposed by the so-called "democratic" bourgeoisie of the other imperialist countries (with whom the Stalinists were allying under the "people's front" policy), and that such boycotts would only be used to whip up inter-imperialist rivalries leading toward an inter-imperialist war, Trotsky wrote of the SAP's "International Peace Committee":

"... And besides, the SAP has in reserve the 'universal economic boycott' to be used against especially vicious governments. In order that the boycott be really 'universal,' the International Peace Committee will evidently have to enter into an alliance with pacifist banks and trusts

(continued on page 12)

## GMR'S "WORKERS REPUBLIC OF QUEBEC":

# Nationalist Trap for Quebec Workers

The recent joint national tour by spokesmen for the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR) and League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière (LSA/LSO) demonstrated the difficulties faced by the Canadian supporters of the revisionist "United" Secretariat (USec) as they seek to pave the road to fusion. Meetings in several cities featured sharp debates between the putative fusion partners: on the one hand, the centrist GMR and its English-Canadian cousin the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG), and on the other, the craven reformists of the LSA/LSO. Particularly sharp were debates on the LSA/LSO's bootlicking support for the New Democratic Party.

All three Canadian USec adherents are, however, proclaiming substantial agreement on the question of Quebec. The GMR, RMG and LSA/LSO all capitulate to Quebec nationalism, supporting independence and posing a separatist strategy for socialist revolution in Quebec. All cite this "agreement" as justification for a rotten-bloc fusion.

But in fact--as the speaking tour served to underline--the "agreement" is at best skin-deep, and the groups' differences on this question, as on many others, remain profound. Just as the LSA bows before social democracy in English Canada (a social democracy which is notoriously English-chauvinist!), so the LSO scrapes at the feet of reactionary clerical nationalism in Quebec. Thus LSO spokesman Suzanne Chabot spent almost all her speaking time justifying her group's position on the language question, arguing for the "consistently" national-chauvinist demand of a "unilingual French Quebec."

On the other hand, the GMR's thrust is to pose a "proletarian nationalist" alternative to the bourgeois nationalist Parti Québécois, by seeking to channel trade union militancy into an "anti-imperialist," "national liberation" struggle. Thus its spokesman Jean-Paul Pelletier discussed the massive Common Front strike struggles of 1972, analyzed the state of the Quebec workers movement today, and elaborated his organization's line for an independent "workers republic of Quebec."

It is this demand for a "workers republic of Quebec" which, more than anything else, summarizes the GMR's political perspective. While it has obviously shifted to the right in order to consider a fusion with the LSO, the GMR remains fraught with contradictions. It has many subjectively revolutionary impulses (certainly far more than the cretinous LSA/LSO), yet it remains a parochial nationalist organization whose political line is unable to show the way forward for the militant Quebec working class. The GMR's stra-

tegic perspective--"national liberation" à la Cuba as the road to revolution in Quebec--can only divide the struggles of the North American proletariat along national lines, thus acting against the interests of both French- and English-speaking workers in the fight for socialism.

Struggles for democratic national and language rights have helped fuel the combativity of the Québécois proletariat, to the point where it is the most advanced on the continent. Revolutionaries uphold Quebec's right to self-determination in order, above all, to promote class unity by opposing all unjust national oppression. This is particularly important since Quebec workers can play a leading role in the North American revolution.

But the GMR's response to the enhanced militancy of the working class in Quebec is to reject any perspective of joint class struggle in favor of the utopian strategy of establishing a proletarian en-



QUEBEC WORKERS PROTEST WAGE CONTROLS ON PARLIAMENT HILL, MARCH 1976.

clave on the banks of the St. Lawrence. Effacing the leading role of Québécois workers in several recent cross-Canada labor struggles--the fight against wage controls, as well as postal and rail strikes--the GMR calls for nationalist breakaways by Quebec unions from the American-dominated Internationals. Last year in its pamphlet "Pour la République des Travailleurs du Québec," the GMR announced:

"The liquidation of the more or less corrupt bureaucracies of the international unions cannot be achieved except by a break with the

(continued on page 6)

## GMR...

(continued from page 5)

American centers and the taking in hand of these unions by the Quebec unions themselves. That is to say, the reorganization of trade unionism on an industrial basis inside a United Labor Federation of Quebec."

Thus the GMR abandons the need to fight against the ossified, pro-capitalist labor tops of the Internationals, and fosters illusions in the Quebec trade union bureaucrats by posing a relative immunity to bureaucratization for the nationalist unions. And by overestimating the strength of the international bureaucrats (who "cannot" be defeated "except" by breakaways), it denies the possibility of building a class-struggle opposition among the "backward" English-speaking workers. Accordingly, says the GMR's nationalist logic, the important ties between the combative working class of Quebec and its class brothers and sisters in the rest of North America must be broken.

FOR UNITED CLASS STRUGGLE!

In a recent polemic against Canadian nationalist Cy Gonick's pleas for "Canadian unity," even the RMG is forced to recognize the iron necessity of a unified struggle by French- and English-speaking workers in North America:

"Gonick correctly says, 'Clearly, this liberation of the dominated classes in Quebec is linked to that of the North American proletariat as a whole.'

"True enough. But his 'unity argument' reveals his lack of understanding that the connection goes both ways."

--Old Mole, 18 March

Of course real unity cannot be forged while great-nation, anti-Québécois chauvinism holds sway among English-speaking workers. Nevertheless the RMG is only too willing to follow the illusion-mongering of the GMR by posing a separatist road to power for the Quebec proletariat. Hence the argument:

"... the assertion that Quebec workers, the most militant and politically advanced in North America, should hold back their struggles against the national oppression of capital and wait for anglophone workers to catch up--this assertion reeks of national chauvinism and is thus a service to reactionaries."

--ibid.

But this demagoguery only avoids the central question. While Cy Gonick and the Communist Party may yearn for the Quebec working class simply to forget about its national oppression and "unite" against "American domination," revolutionary internationalists certainly do not tell Quebec workers to "hold back their struggles." Rather, revolutionary workers parties must be forged to lead the struggles of all North American workers to state power. The question is how the North

American socialist revolution can be achieved.

A separate "workers republic of Quebec" is conceivable under only two historical circumstances. One, the possible secession of Quebec from a North American soviet state to form an independent workers republic, is clearly not applicable today. The second, an isolated seizure of state power in one corner of North America, is only an episodic possibility. Unless the rest of the North American proletariat is able to follow rapidly and consolidate power throughout the continent, such an uprising is doomed to failure and the militant Québécois workers will be crushed.

Of course Quebec could secede from Canada to form an independent capitalist state, and a Québécois capitalist ruling class could consolidate its rule and develop its own relations with the imperialist world market. Under such circumstances, the proletarian revolution could theoretically begin within the framework of the Quebec nation-state. But even in this case the conquest of power in Quebec would either be the prelude to the struggle for proletarian power throughout North America, or it would be defeated.

The high degree of integration of the North American political economy and the overwhelming economic, political and military dominance of the United States mean that proletarian power will only be consolidated on a continent-wide basis. Thus any attempt at proletarian revolution in North America which fails to achieve state power in the United States is ultimately doomed. A separate "Canadian socialist revolution," much less a "Quebec socialist revolution," is a utopian impossibility.

### LESSONS OF THE COMMUNE AND THE CATALAN FEDERATION

Two historical lessons on this subject are provided by the fate of the Paris Commune in 1871 and Trotsky's polemics against the Catalan Federation in Spain during the early 1930's. In 1871, the workers of Paris were provoked into a premature uprising, and established the Commune under militarily unfavorable circumstances, with insufficient prior revolutionary work among the workers and peasants outside Paris. Marx and Engels called for support to the Communards and for standing with them on the barricades. However they pointed out that power could not be consolidated in Paris alone, but had to be extended through the support of the toiling masses in the rest of France. In fact, the defeat of the Commune after only seventy-two days led to the decimation and demoralization of the flower of the French proletariat. It took an entire generation after the Commune for the Parisian workers to begin to reach a similar level of combativity and class-consciousness.

Writing on Spain in 1931, Leon Trotsky warned against the illusion, fostered by Joaquín Maurín's Catalan Federation, that the militant Catalan proletariat could come to power in the absence of a similar class uprising in the rest of Spain. Agreeing that "Catalonia is the vanguard," Trotsky admonished Maurín:

## LCUC Militant's Motion Demands: "Defend Quebec's Right to Self-Determination!"

The following motion was presented to a March 17 meeting of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC) Local 1 by militant shop steward Bob McBurney. According to postal workers at the meeting (which was attended by about 70 union members) the motion was defeated by a count of approximately two to one. Its failure to pass demonstrates that, unfortunately, bourgeois- and bureaucrat-inspired anti-Québécois chauvinism is prevalent throughout the English Canadian workers movement--even in unions, like the LCUC, which have a history of joint English-Canadian/Québécois class struggle against the capitalist class.

As McBurney pointed out in a leaflet distributed at the meeting:

"The issue of the right of Quebec to self-determination takes on added importance as the capitalist press cries out 'save confederation' and labor leaders like the UAW's Dennis McDermott join with capitalist politicians to promote meetings to reinforce 'national unity'. Already McDermott has agreed to help build Bill Davis's reactionary 'One Canada Conference'. To deny the Québécois the right to determine their own future as a nation, is to ensure that chauvinism will prevent the urgently necessary class unity of the English-speaking workers and our Québécois brothers and sisters. This objectively strengthens the hand of the capitalists and weakens the worker's movement in the face of our common enemy. We must denounce any labor

leader who participates in this type of confederation campaign."

Faced with this important motion in defense of the Québécois' national rights, local president Alex Power and his flunkies said nothing, and refused to vote for it. Trade unionists in English Canada must fight for their unions to adopt motions like the following, in order to combat national chauvinism and forge proletarian unity.

### Motion for March 17, LCUC Local 1 Meeting

Whereas: the Québécois workers have been in the forefront of struggles against the boss in our union and elsewhere in the labor movement; and Whereas: the greatest possible unity of the working class against the capitalists and their government can only be achieved if English-speaking workers defend the democratic and national rights of the Québécois, including their right to separate if they so choose;

be it resolved that: LCUC Local 1 go on record to recognize the right of Quebec to self-determination and encourage the national office to do the same;

and be it further resolved: that LCUC Local 1 pledge to take action necessary to defend this right if the Canadian government makes any move to deny Quebec national and democratic rights;

and be it finally resolved: that Local 1 send this resolution to our sister locals in Quebec as a measure of solidarity.

"... But if this vanguard will not march in step with the proletariat and later on with the peasantry of all of Spain, the Catalan movement will at best be concluded as a magnificent episode in the style of the Paris Commune. The peculiar position of Catalonia is driving in this direction. The national conflict may heat up the steam to such an extent that the Catalan explosion will occur long before the situation in Spain as a whole has matured for a second revolution.

"It would be the greatest historical misfortune if the Catalan proletariat, under the influence of the national ferment, permitted itself to be drawn into a decisive struggle before it has had the chance to consolidate itself with the proletariat of all of Spain."

--The Spanish Revolution, pg. 107

Quebec's strategic weight in North America today is much less than the weight of Paris in France in 1871 or of Catalonia in Spain in the 1930's. Only a blissfully ignorant nationalist dreamer could con-

ceive of a successful proletarian revolution somewhere on the continent which did not smash capitalist rule in the United States.

The GMR's call for a "workers republic of Quebec" is not simple theoretical musing on the possibility of an episodic seizure of power in Quebec, followed immediately by an insurrection on the rest of the continent. It is a call for a nationally-delimited proletarian struggle. That is how it is seen by Québécois workers, and that is how it is meant by the GMR. Don't "wait" for those backward English, the GMR is saying, we're the most advanced, we can seize power on our own. And just to ensure that Québécois workers are not "held back" by the chauvinists in the international unions, the GMR calls for nationalist trade union breakaways.

### TOWARD NORTH AMERICAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!

In 1913 Stalin, then still a Bolshevik writing under Lenin's tutelage, wrote:

"We know whither the division of workers along  
(continued on page 11)

# The Acadians: Language Rights and Nationalism

by R. Gibsen

The chauvinist backlash against the federal government's bilingualism program, combined with the election of the Parti Québécois government in Quebec last fall, have focused renewed attention on the plight of the oppressed French-language minority in Canada. In the increasingly inflamed atmosphere of national tension between French- and English-speakers across the country, reactionary chauvinism has been on the rise, and the most victimized has been the French-speaking population outside Quebec.

Railing against bilingualism, western rednecks cite the French on their cornflakes boxes and pickle jars as evidence that the language is being "shoved down their throats." English chauvinists in Essex County, Ontario, have banded together in an attempt to prevent the construction of a French-language school for Franco-Ontarians. In the Maritimes--particularly in New Brunswick, which has the largest percentage of French-speaking residents of any province outside Quebec--reactionaries like former Moncton mayor and present federal MP Leonard Jones are continuing their campaign to stamp out the French language.

Meanwhile the Parti Québécois government (cheered on by sundry fake leftists) is threatening to replace the infamous Bill 22 language legislation with a new act reaffirming French as the only official language of Quebec and making access to English-language schools even more restrictive. This reverse chauvinism, which scapegoats the large immigrant and English-speaking minority in Quebec (including hundreds of thousands of non-French-speaking working people) for two centuries of anti-French discrimination, is giving added ammunition to the "English only" campaign of bigots throughout English Canada.

Caught in the chauvinist crossfire, the French-speaking minorities of New Brunswick, Ontario and other provinces face continued attacks on their democratic rights--attacks which can only increase national and linguistic divisions among the working class, thus retarding the necessary joint class struggle against capital. As the most consistent defenders of democratic rights for all nationalities, communists stand unconditionally for the right of the oppressed Québécois nation to self-determination, and support bilingualism (where necessary,

multilingualism) as a just and democratic solution to the problem of linguistic oppression and chauvinism. The vital democratic demand for equal language rights for all, long denied and distorted by so-called revolutionaries who have embraced the program of Quebec nationalism, takes on particular importance in the case of the Acadian French-speaking minority in New Brunswick--a minority which comprises more than a third of the province's total population.

## THE PARTI ACADIEN

The long history of oppression suffered by the Acadian people has contributed in recent years to the growth of a romantic and utopian ersatz Acadian "nationalism," exemplified by the formation of the Parti Acadien (PA). The PA grew out of the radical-nationalist French-language student movement of New Brunswick, and was founded in 1972 as the Maritime mini-version of the bourgeois Parti Québécois. Having no links with any section of the working class, this party is thoroughly petty-bourgeois in character. Even its thin veneer of social-democratic rhetoric consists mainly of propagating the utopian-reactionary notion that the impoverished fishermen, wood-lot owners and subsistence farmers of New Brunswick's "North Shore" can gain economic self-sufficiency via producer and consumer co-operatives.

Since the Acadian minority comprises only 34 percent of the population, the chances of forming a provincial government by appealing to an ethnic vote are quite remote. Thus "respectable" Acadian politicians (careerists and the two-bit hustlers of the patronage game) continue to find a more rewarding niche in the established bourgeois parties, mainly the Liberal Party. To date, the PA has been relegated to a very minor third-party status. Its major electoral foray in the 1974 provincial elections saw the party run 12 candidates (of a possible 57), none of whom received more than five percent of the vote.

## GMR TAILS ACADIAN PSEUDO-NATIONALISM

Following the election of the nationalist PQ in Quebec, the Parti Acadien has been seeking to concretize its perspectives on the way forward for New



1969: FRENCH-SPEAKING UNIVERSITE DE MONCTON STUDENTS LEAVE CAMPUS BUILDING FOLLOWING A SIT-IN PROTEST FOR JOBS AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS.

Brunswick's French-speaking population. Seeking to intervene into the party's deliberations, the centrist Quebec nationalists of the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR) published an article in a recent issue of their newspaper offering some polite suggestions on how the PA can become "a real alternative for the workers and oppressed masses of Acadia" (*Combat Socialiste*, 10 December 1976). The article suggested that the PA adopt a vague "truly socialist program" (whose?), "clarify" the problem of overcoming national oppression and achieving socialism (how?) and strengthen itself by adopting some "Leninist" organizational trappings.

Unlike the PQ, the Parti Acadien does not have a significant electoral base or well-known demagogic leadership. Its roots in the political terrain are very weak. The grotesquely opportunist proposal of the GMR is that this petty-bourgeois party should refine its fake "socialist" rhetoric, thus strengthening any illusions that misguided Acadian militants may have in it.

Rather than posing a communist solution to the oppression of the Maritime French-speaking minority (which would be tied to a North American socialist revolution), the GMR raises no criticisms of the PA's sometime "Acadian separatism." Thus these opportunists pander to the utopian and dangerous illusion that the 350,000 partially dispersed Acadians constitute a distinct nation (separate from both the Québécois and the English-speaking population) which could achieve its liberation through forming an independent mini-state on the Bay of Chaleur. Although having a common language and a history which is largely distinct from that of the Québécois, the majority of Acadians today live either in isolated and impoverished linguistic enclaves adjacent to the Gaspé region of Quebec or, increasingly, in the larger predominantly English-speaking cities of the province (like Moncton and Saint John), where jobs are somewhat easier to come by.

Even in the predominantly Acadian northeast of New Brunswick (population about 200,000), roughly 30 percent of the inhabitants are English-speaking.

This area, which would supposedly constitute the new independent "Acadie," is the most backward, least industrialized section of New Brunswick and one of the most impoverished areas in all of Canada, with an unemployment rate at least three times the national average. Aside from the Brunswick Mines operation and a few pulp and paper mills, the main sources of income remain subsistence agriculture and fishing, boosted by provincial welfare payments and federal make-work projects.

#### WHO ARE THE ACADIANS?

The Acadian separatists' romantic yearnings largely stem from reminiscences about the early French North American colony of Acadie. The present-day Acadians are descendants of the French settlers who arrived in Nova Scotia in the seventeenth century. During the French regime the colony of Acadie was separate both geographically and politically from the more important colony on the St. Lawrence. This separation was furthered by the surrender of Acadia to England in 1713, fifty years before the defeat of the French forces in Quebec.

The original Acadian settlements were destroyed during the middle decades of the eighteenth century by forced deportations. The few Acadians who escaped deportation or who later returned to the Maritimes were forced to resettle in the least agriculturally productive areas and faced linguistic and economic oppression which has continued to the present day. Having origins in the region which predate the founding of Quebec and a largely separate historical development, the Acadians are clearly not a simple linear eastward extension of the Québécois. However the close geographical proximity of the Acadians of northeastern New Brunswick to the Québécois means that their future destiny will be closely linked to that of Quebec.

Given the fact that the Acadians live outside the province of Quebec and have a high degree of interpenetration with the English-speaking majority of New Brunswick, their democratic rights cannot simply be assumed under the national rights of the Québécois. In the event that Quebec elects to separate from the rest of Canada, the French-majority area of northeastern New Brunswick (along with similar predominantly French-speaking border areas in Ontario) should have the democratic right to decide whether or not to join the new independent state. Furthermore, full democratic language rights must be guaranteed for those Acadians who have migrated south to the less economically depressed cities of southern New Brunswick.

However under the oppressive capitalist system, which fosters and intensifies reactionary national antagonisms among the working people, there will be continued potential for divisive ethnic polarization between English and French throughout all regions of New Brunswick. One need only look at the example of Moncton, a city whose two-thirds English-speaking majority and one-third Acadian minority are almost totally segregated from one another.

(continued on page 10)

## ACADIANS...

(continued from page 9)

other, and in which chauvinism is widespread. Only the dictatorship of the proletariat can guarantee all nationalities equal language rights and opportunity, thus providing a just and democratic solution to all aspects of the Acadian question.

### DEFEND BILINGUALISM!

Defense of French-language rights--historically denied throughout Canada--is a key component of the Leninist program for forging working class unity without chauvinism or privilege. Thus the bilingual provisions of the federal government's Official Languages Act were--however token their implementation--a fully supportable democratic reform. In New Brunswick, under pressure from an Acadian reform movement and the federal Liberal Party's commitment to bilingualism, the government of Louis Robichaud was forced in 1969 to pass an act making French a second official language.

The limited gains achieved by French-speaking residents of New Brunswick have been under continuous attack from right-wing United Empire Loyalist neanderthals like Leonard Jones. In addition, as with other reform legislation of the past decade, the government has procrastinated on implementing many important aspects of the act. A reversal of the New Brunswick language act would mean an end to legal guarantees for French-language education, social services or provincial government services in the province.

### AGAINST ALL NATIONAL CHAUVINISM!

While their cousins in the GMR have taken a tentative step in the direction of tailing petty-bourgeois Acadian nationalism, the reformists of the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière (LSA/LSO) have maintained a remarkable silence on the

question of the Acadians, and on French minority rights outside Quebec in general. No doubt this silence arises from the LSA/LSO's shameful role as the "best builder" of the anti-democratic movement for French unilingualism in Quebec. The disgusting support given by the LSA/LSO to unilingualism is not designed to combat anti-French discrimination through a guarantee of equal language rights, but would rather deny democratic language rights to the 20 percent non-French-speaking minority in Quebec.

By "defending the language rights of the majority" in Quebec through attacking the language rights of the rest, the bigots of the LSA/LSO provide a perfect justification for the denial by chauvinists in English Canada of language rights for French-speaking and other minority language groups. While the LSA/LSO revels in clerical-nationalist French unilingualism in Quebec, groups like the Canada Party (political arm of the ultra-reactionary English-Speaking Association) have been "defending the rights of the majority" by calling for a unilingual English New Brunswick.

Both the GMR and LSA/LSO are affiliated to the rotten-bloc, fake-Trotskyist "United" Secretariat (USec). The grovelling capitulation to nationalism which is demonstrated by both wings of the USec in Canada can only serve to divide the working class and the oppressed in the struggle against the capitalist system, and cannot show the way forward for the working masses. In contrast, the program of authentic Leninism, upheld in Canada by the Trotskyist League, lays the basis for uniting all the oppressed around the banner of the proletariat by combatting all aspects of national oppression and chauvinism. Descendants of the innocent victims of the mercantilist British-French colonial rivalry, the Acadians will only achieve complete social, economic and cultural equality in the wake of a victorious continent-wide proletarian revolution.■

## Hardial Bains...

(continued from page 3)

to counter what is basically an anti-communist attack in political retaliation for his stand in defense of the East Indian community."

--letter of 16 March 1975

In addition, however, we must remark on CPC(M-L)'s own failure to engage in principled united defense work for other victims of reactionary persecution. Your failure to defend Caribbean militant Rosie Douglas--indeed your spokesman Martin Bracey's stated opinion that his deportation should not be opposed--stands as only one grotesque example of this anti-working-class behaviour. Your incessant vilification of and violence and slanders against other left-wing groups (whom you characterize as counterrevolutionaries and police agents), and the sectarian manner in which you have to date carried out the defense campaign for those arrested in Waterloo, can only serve to drive away potential support and sabotage the defense of your victimized

militants.

For our part, we stand ready to enter into any united action in defense of Hardial Bains and the other arrested CPC(M-L)ers, out of our Leninist proletarian solidarity and our commitment to fight all attacks against and deportations of leftists and foreign workers. What is needed is the broadest possible, democratically-organized defense campaign to demand that the charges be dropped and that the state-organized persecution of CPC(M-L) be stopped.

Fraternally,

John Masters  
for the Political Bureau  
of the Trotskyist League

cc. D. Wahlsten, Organizing Committee to found  
the Canadian People's (Citizens' and Residents')  
Defense Committee

# DEPORTATIONS...

(continued from page 2)

any irregularities in the original visa application. Under the new bill immigrants can be required to settle in designated areas and work in assigned occupations for specified periods of time.

With a solitary genuflection in the direction of liberalism, the bill drops any mention of homosexuality as grounds for exclusion of prospective immigrants. This minor concession would undoubtedly be negated by the increased discretionary powers given to immigration officers, and in any event pales before the reactionary provisions of the bill as a whole. Yet Labor Challenge, paper of the ultra-reformist League for Socialist Action (LSA), heralded the bill's sole reform in an article entitled "Victory for Gay Movement: Ban on Homosexual Immigrants Removed" (20 December 1976)--the LSA's only article on the new bill to date!

The labor movement should be mounting massive protests against this discriminatory and repressive legislation, demanding an end to deportations and full citizenship rights for all foreign workers. The New Democratic Party parliamentarians, however, have been participating in the parliamentary committees which framed the legislation, while the Canadian Labour Congress bureaucrats have submitted a joint brief with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association calling for more stringent immigration quotas. These labor traitors, who willingly participate in the ruling class's chauvinist campaigns, must be ousted and replaced by a new class-struggle leadership dedicated to forging unity of all the exploited and oppressed. Only such a leadership, organized in a revolutionary vanguard party, can lead the struggle to destroy the capitalist order and all its racist excrescences. ■

## GMR...

(continued from page 7)

national lines leads. The disintegration of a united workers' party, the division of trade unions along national lines, aggravation of national friction, national strike-breaking, complete demoralization within the ranks of Social-Democracy--such are the fruits of organizational federalism....

"The only cure for this is organization on international lines."

--"Marxism and the National Question"

The GMR's utopian-reactionary program for the Quebec working class stems from its profound adaptation to nationalist ideology (its very existence as a separate organization from the RMG is an example of this nationalism). Marx never called for a Paris Commune. Nor did the Bolsheviks raise the slogan "workers republic of Poland," or support national divisions in working class organizations. In fact they fought actively against both. Advocating

the right to self-determination was seen by the Bolsheviks as serving the end of multinational working-class unity. The GMR's capitulation to nationalist illusions leads it to advance the defeatist strategy of a "workers republic of Quebec," and to call for Quebec workers to break away from the mainstream of the North American workers movement.

Like the Bolsheviks, we recognize that proletarian unity can only be forged through all-sided struggle against all forms of social oppression, and for full and equal democratic rights, including national rights. Thus Trotskyists raise the call for Quebec's unconditional right to self-determination, up to and including secession, and have nothing but contempt for chauvinist cretins like the Communist Party, who strive to reinforce "Canadian unity." Furthermore, while not advocating independence today, the Trotskyist League recognizes that national antagonisms among working people in Canada have risen dramatically in recent years, particularly since the election of the Parti Québécois government last fall. This poses the possibility that in the near future a call for the independence of Quebec may be the only way to forge the necessary fighting class unity.

But the "workers republic of Quebec" is an entirely different question. Unlike the GMR and RMG, we are not out to tail whatever is popular, or to assuage liberal guilt-pangs stemming from two centuries of national oppression of the Québécois. Rather we seek to build a party which can lead a proletarian revolution on this continent.

The calls for separate organizations for Quebec workers and a "workers republic of Quebec" are nationalist demands which, if logically implemented, could only lead to the defeat of the militant Québécois proletariat. If, like the Communards, the Québécois proletariat takes to the barricades against overwhelming odds, authentic revolutionary internationalists will be there with them. But without a revolution in the heart of the North American continent, the Quebec working class cannot consolidate an independent state power. The defeat of an isolated Quebec workers commune would be a setback for the entire North American socialist revolution, a defeat for which left-nationalists like the GMR would be politically culpable. ■

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## BOYCOTTS...

(continued from page 4)

and, on the other hand, 'condemn' those capitalists who reap profits from war...."

--"Centrist Alchemy or Marxism?," Writings 1934-35, page 267

It would be appropriate for the supporters of various Stalinist organizations in the local (including the Communist Party, and Canadian Communist League [Marxist-Leninist]) to cite the "anti-fascist" boycott schemes of the 1930's to justify their position on South Africa. On the other hand the RMG, which claims to stand in the tradition of Trotskyism, now joins with the Stalinists and preachers in opposition to Trotsky's position.

Thus the RMG also finds itself in the company of the Stalinist-led African National Congress (ANC) in demanding a total boycott of South Africa. While one CUPE 1230 member argued at the local meeting that since the blacks of South Africa have called for a total boycott the union had no choice but to support this demand, the truth is that it is the bourgeois-nationalist ANC, not the black masses themselves, who have made this appeal internationally. At a recent forum on South Africa, an ANC supporter concretized the boycott demand by calling on all Canadians to withdraw their money from the four chartered Canadian banks which have investments in South Africa, presumably to invest with the "progressive" capitalist trusts and financial institutions.

In regard to the demand for a total cultural boycott of South Africa, it is useful to recall the ANC's response to the South African play "Sizwe Banzi is Dead," a dramatic statement against apartheid which was performed before black audiences in the Transkei bantustan itself. Not only were the actors, John Kani and Winston Ntshona, arrested by the South African government, they were also condemned by the Stalinists for violating the ANC's call for a total boycott of South Africa. Would the RMG also argue that the struggles of blacks against apartheid would have been better served if these courageous actors had rejected the cultural boycott demand of the ANC?

Begging U of T management and other capitalist institutions to sever all economic and cultural ties with South Africa may assuage the moral guilt of the RMG and the CUPE 1230 executive, but it will do nothing to serve the interests of the black and coloured masses in their struggle against apartheid. Such utopian-reactionary schemes may soothe liberal consciences, but they cannot be part of the campaign of real international labor solidarity which is necessary to aid those striving to bring down the venal Pretoria regime.

As the only member of the library workers union (CUPE 1230) to speak against the resolution to boycott inter-library loan requests to South Africa I am writing in response to the local executive's letter in The Varsity last week--'Library Management refuses South Africa Resolution'. Management's in-

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tervention in union affairs and John Parker's threats to take the union to the anti-labor Ontario Labour Relations Board must be opposed and the union defended against it.

It is vitally important for the working class internationally to demonstrate its solidarity and support for the courageous struggles of the African masses against apartheid. However the proposal of refusing to fill requests for books to South Africa in no way would have supported these struggles. In fact, if implemented, it would only have retarded the anti-apartheid rebellion.

Contrary to the moral indignation of the executive who claim the book boycott is an "anti-apartheid policy" a ban on books is the cultural policy of the of the reactionary, racist Nationalist Party. Under the measures of the 'Publications and Entertainments Act' a Publication Control Board was created to censor all books which did not serve to support the apartheid regime. The resolution not to send books to South African universities, schools, libraries etc. (all of which are state institutions, including black and coloured universities) could only contribute to the Vorster regime's iron-fisted control of the black masses by more effectively cutting off access to international culture. The only way most blacks and other anti-apartheid fighters can possibly get books that do not reflect the racist, Afrikaans chauvinist views of the South African government is through the university library system. Thus the motion to boycott books would only serve the cause of apartheid.

Further, the deep revulsion of the African masses for Afrikaans--the language of their hated oppressors, spoken only in South Africa--was demonstrated by the Soweto uprising last June. The anti-apartheid rebellion which continues to sweep South Africa was

## **Urgent PDC Fund Appeal:**

# **EXILED CHILEAN MILITANT NEEDS YOUR AID!**

Fernando Marcos Arancibia, 30-year-old Chilean Union organizer and workers' leader, is blind. Exiled in France by the bloody Pinochet terror, Marcos must have urgent medical attention. At stake: the last chance to recover his eyesight. The cost: \$10,000. The Partisan Defense Committee is undertaking the responsibility of raising the funds necessary for Marcos' corneal transplant.

In 1971 while carrying out his union duties, Marcos suffered a catastrophic industrial accident which almost cost him his life and which left him completely blind. With the sharpening social crisis and mounting threat to the Chilean working class, Marcos refused to travel abroad for medical treatment. The 11 September 1973 coup found Marcos' health deteriorating due to the deliberate criminal neglect by an ophthalmologist subsequently appointed by the murderous junta to the directorship of a major hospital.

Sentenced to death by the Pinochet junta Fernando Marcos was to take refuge in France with his compañera and newborn daughter. Although out of immediate danger, the conditions of exile for class-struggle fighters like Fernando Marcos are harsh, insecure and precarious. Isolated from friends, relatives and involvement in the struggles of the workers to which they dedicated their lives, and burdened with the language barrier and national chauvinism, exile is a lonely sojourn. Since those who stand on the side of the downtrodden and exploited are them-



FERNANDO MARCOS (center) GREETES MARIO MUNOZ, PERSECUTED CHILEAN UNION LEADER, UPON HIS SAFE ARRIVAL IN EUROPE LAST SUMMER.

Hubert Schatzl

selves often poor workers, and in exile they are often deprived even of their humble means of livelihood, they escape reactionary terror only to be hounded by the relentless persecution of poverty. Even their safety is perilous. Their asylum is at the sufferance of governments hostile to the cause they champion: the liberation of the oppressed. Exiles from right-wing terror are deprived of most democratic rights and are subject to continuous police harassment and the threat of deportation back

(continued on page 14)

touched off by South African government's attempt to impose Afrikaans as a co-equal instructional language with English for black secondary students. To restrict the import of English-language books to South Africa would only further the cultural subjugation of the blacks, by reinforcing the white ruling class policy of forcing Afrikaans on the blacks.

For all their ballyhooing the executive rescinded the motion under pressure from management without even bringing the question back to the membership for discussion. Now the door is open for management to use the same legal precedents to prevent any labor actions. Of course, John Parker, the administration's hatchet man, "wished to flex his muscles to intimidate the new executive" and he was successful. With this victory under their belts management has threatened to discipline a library worker who acted on the motion.

My opposition to the book boycott proposal does not stand in the way of my calling for a militant defense of the union or any union member victimized

by management because of this proposal. The motion must be reversed by the union members themselves without management interference, intimidation or disciplinary actions.

Now the executive is proposing that we "continue with our allies in and out of the labour movement to fight for U of T to change its stand." Rather than fighting for management to ban books (!) the labor movement must organize and support limited industrial actions (strikes, hot cargoing etc.) to back up specific demands. Tepid liberal moralism coupled with unlimited cultural and economic boycotts (which could only weaken the capacity of the blacks to struggle against their oppressors) must be countered by labor actions against multinational corporations having subsidiaries in South Africa to force recognition of black unions and a standing military boycott of arms destined for South Africa.

Jane Kirby  
Member  
CUPE 1230

## PDC Fund Appeal...

(continued from page 13)

into the hands of their would-be assassins.

It is not enough to win asylum for victims of right-wing repression: the entirety of their fate in exile must be of continuing importance. This concern is part and parcel of the tradition of class-struggle defense of the early International Labor Defense, which is the heritage of the PDC. Not only did the ILD energetically fight for the freedom of Sacco and Vanzetti and labor militants of all political persuasions, but also regularly sent money to class-war prisoners and their families in order to provide for minimal human needs and at least partially alleviate their hardships. In addition to financially aiding numerous defense cases and campaigns, the PDC has also raised funds for workers locked out because of union organizing drives or temporarily deprived of their livelihood because of company harassment, and also the family of a longshoreman killed by a scab. The successfully concluded international defense campaign--co-sponsored by the PDC and the Europe-based Committee to Defend the Worker and Sailor Prisoners in Chile--to win safe exit for the Chilean miners' union leader Mario Muñoz Salas and his family, raised the funds necessary to ensure their safe departure from Argentina and to provide for such basic human needs as food, clothing and shelter during the specially difficult early period of resettlement and exile. Financing the operations necessary for Fernando Marcos to regain his sight is an urgent aspect of the PDC's class-struggle anti-sectarian defense work.

This is Marcos' last chance. Previous operations in exile failed due to inattentive post-operative care, vividly illustrating the too-often catastrophic outcome of "charity medical care" upon which exiles are forced to depend. Both Marcos and the PDC insist on the best medical care available for this sensitive operation. As a consequence the excellent Barraquer Clinic in Barcelona, headed by the internationally esteemed Dr. Joaquin Barraquer, has been selected. Clinic specialists have determined that this is the final operation that can be attempted with any guarantee of success. The PDC has already financed the preliminary investigative appointment, including travel, which led to the determination that

a series of three operations were medically necessary and feasible. The first procedure is scheduled for the opening months of 1977.

This valiant Chilean workers leader must not continue to suffer the brutal consequences of exile and deprivation. Your financial assistance today will determine the course of the rest of Marcos' life: left to a life handicapped, frustrated and circumscribed by blindness or one in which he regains his fullest ability to dedicate himself to the cause of the oppressed. Your immediate and generous financial assistance will guarantee that the PDC's compelling obligation is met. We welcome your support in this effort.

--February 1977

The Partisan Defense Committee is a class-struggle, anti-sectarian legal defense organization, which is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League.

Enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to aid the campaign on behalf of Fernando Marcos (Make payable to Partisan Defense Committee and earmark "Marcos Fund.")

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## BC Students...

(continued from page 16)

in addition to the maintenance workers, B. C. Hydro bus drivers refused to cross the student picket line. Yet the buses hired to transport students to the rally were driven by non-union drivers... who went straight through the picket line!

Only the members and supporters of the Trotskyist League at SFU can honestly lay claim to the tradition of labor solidarity demonstrated by the maintenance workers and B. C. Hydro bus drivers. During the Poly-Party strike they refused to cross the lines, and called on other teachers, students and workers to do the same. As the TL pointed out in its leaflet distributed at the March 10 rally:

"... even such minimal demands as 'no tuition hikes' and 'no cutbacks' can only be won by massive labor/student mobilizations against the government's austerity measures. But such mobilizations cannot be built on rhetorical 'support.' It demands a reciprocal commitment by students and the labor movement to actively support each others' struggles and to wage a joint offensive." ■



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# Rosie Douglas Betrays Trotter Defense

## FREE DESMOND TROTTER!

Buried deep in the pages of the March 18 *Old Mole* (paper of the Revolutionary Marxist Group [RMG]), a tiny article decries the public attack made by Rosie Douglas on the activities of the Desmond Trotter Defense Committee in Dominica. Despite a government ban, several thousand people rallied in the island capital of Roseau last November 20 to demand immediate freedom for the imprisoned "black power" activist, who was jailed on a frame-up murder charge in 1974. The demonstrators were tear-gassed by police and thirteen people were arrested.

Douglas, once a "Marxist-Leninist" cult-hero of the RMG, and himself a victim of state repression in Canada, joined hands with the Dominican government to denounce the demonstration as "unprincipled, opportunist and anarchist... not meant to release Trotter but to rather generally oppose the government and gain cheap publicity for individuals." The rally organizers he branded as "a collusion of colonialists, anarchists and opportunists joining together not to free Desmond Trotter but to embarrass the government, stall independence and in fact play right into the hands of the CIA" (*New Chronicle*, 27 November 1976, quoted in *Caribbean Dialogue*, January 1977).

Since his return to his native Dominica (following his deportation from Canada last year), Douglas has been an active advocate of "unity" with tinpot autocrat Patrick John and his plantation-owners' "Labour Party" government. According to the RMG, only "since his return to Dominica" has Douglas "fallen into the trap" of the Stalinist "two-stage" theory of revolution. But contrary to this disillusioned whimpering, Douglas' present politics -- which have led him to his disgusting renunciation of united militant efforts to free Desmond



DESMOND TROTTER

Trotter--are only a consistent extension of the class-collaborationist Caribbean nationalism which drew him into the orbit of the reformist Communist Party while he was still in Canada.

The inveterate opportunists of the RMG may hypocritically bemoan Douglas' sectarianism and his failure to "learn the lessons" of his own defense campaign. But they are the ones who have really failed to learn any lessons from the campaign, during which they uncritically hailed Douglas as a "revolutionary" and "Marxist-Leninist," and refused to organize principled united-front actions with other political tendencies. In contrast the Trotskyist League, while publicizing and building Douglas' defense (despite the sectarianism of the RMG), consistently criticized his bankrupt pan-Caribbean nationalist strategy for liberation.

While Douglas has now wormed his way into the good graces of Patrick John and the Dominican "plantocracy," Desmond Trotter continues to languish in the dungeons of the despotic regime, while other leftists and religious-cultist "Dreads" face widespread persecution. Despite several recantations of testimony by the government's chief witness against Trotter (who admitted that she committed perjury under the pressure of bribes and threats by Dominican police), this innocent leftist remains in jail, facing possible life imprisonment.

The Partisan Defense Committee and international Spartacist tendency (iSt) have actively participated in the campaign to free Desmond Trotter, and continue to demand his immediate release. Unlike fake radical Rosie Douglas, the iSt does not support "unity" with Trotter's brutal jailers, but seeks to build revolutionary parties throughout the Caribbean to lead the workers and oppressed masses in a struggle to smash capitalist rule. ■

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## Picket Line Controversy at SFU

# B.C. Students Rally Against Fee Hikes

VANCOUVER--Faced with the prospect of large tuition fee increases (expected to range between 25 and 30 percent), students at British Columbia universities and colleges held a series of protest rallies last month. In the largest action on March 1, 3,000 students marched in protest on the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus. Ten days later however, a province-wide rally called by the B. C. Federation of Students (BCFS) attracted only 750 students (largely from UBC, Capilano College and Simon Fraser University [SFU]) to Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

While this province-wide rally was disappointingly small (due largely to its bureaucratic organization and the parochial liberal politics of the BCFS), it did rekindle the picket line controversy which has been simmering at SFU since the lengthy strike of Poly-Party maintenance workers last fall. On the morning of March 10, in a last ditch effort to get students to boycott classes and attend the rally downtown, student bureaucrats initiated an "informational" picket line at the campus entrance. The picket line was thrown up at the last minute, with no prior warning, and its initiators had no intention of shutting the campus down or even enlisting the support of faculty and campus workers. Thus most students and faculty simply crossed the line, as they had done for the many weeks of the Poly-Party strike last fall.

But for class-conscious workers and their supporters, a picket line means only one thing: "don't cross." Thus when the maintenance workers began to arrive at the campus entrance, they saw the pickets, and refused to cross! Even though the same students who were picketing that day had wantonly crossed their picket lines last fall, and the vast majority of students were crossing the line again, the Poly-Party workers preferred losing a half-day's pay to violating a working class principle. This action, more than a hundred speeches and liberal resolutions, underlined the necessary solidarity between workers and students against capitalist attacks.

But the same cannot be said of the thousands of SFU students who wantonly scabbed on the maintenance workers' strike last semester. In the "vanguard" of those blithely waltzing across the lines every day to attend classes and carry on business as usual, were members of the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG). The RMG scabs pleaded that they simply had to cross the lines to carry on important student "support" work.

This "important" work consisted of pushing such infantile and sub-reformist schemes as writing letters of complaint to the Board of Health about unsanitary campus conditions. Now that the campus has been cleaned up, the only remaining legacy of the RMG's "strike support" work is...how to cross picket lines!

### STUDENT BUREAUCRAT HYPOCRISY

The day after the province-wide rally, a consummately hypocritical editorial in the SFU student newspaper The Peak decried student apathy and cynicism, and admonished those who did not re-



Globe and Mail  
UBC STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST TUITION HIKES, MARCH 1.

spect the class boycott. But The Peak's chief complaint was about the way students treated the picket line:

"Most shocking of all was the number of students who crossed the student informational picket line.... That so many students crossed the picket line seriously damaged the credibility [sic] of the student movement at SFU."

Shocking indeed. The student parochialists of The Peak and Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) are very adept at forgetting about last fall, when they refused to sacrifice even a few course credits in order to support the striking maintenance workers. The Peak editorial failed to mention that, in

(continued on page 14)