

# 4 SPARTACIST

CANADA

Spring 1989 No. 74 25¢

## War to the Death Against CIA's Mullah Cutthroats!

# Battle for Afghanistan

The Red Army withdrawal from Afghanistan is a cold-blooded betrayal of the Afghan and Soviet peoples. The CIA's Islamic warriors, armed for over a decade with billions of dollars of ultramodern military equipment, are poised to carry out the wholesale slaughter of Afghan women, teachers and other intellectuals, leftist activists and peasants. And George Bush has now announced the U.S. will continue to supply the *mujahedin* with arms as long as the left-nationalist Kabul regime is in power.

If this army of mullahs and tribalist cutthroats topples the Najibullah government, Afghanistan will become an imperialist dagger pointed at Soviet Central Asia. In his drive to appease Washington by abandoning Afghanistan, Moscow leader Mikhail Gorbachev is giving U.S. imperialism and its allies a launching pad for counterrevolution in the homeland of the socialist October Revolution. With their backs to the wall, the forces of social progress are facing a war to the death. Smash Washington's "holy warriors"!

The *mujahedin* call it *badal*, the code of revenge of the dominant Pushtun tribes. It means not just death but often torture, dismemberment and mutilation.

(continued on page 8)



Reuters Bettmann

Kabul, February 5: Members of Afghan women's militia face life-and-death struggle.

## Gorbachev's Pullout Is a Betrayal

## Letters

# Stop Witchhunt of Ben Johnson!

Mexico City  
5 January 1989

Dear comrades:

I appreciated the Ben Johnson article ["Racism and Ben Johnson," SC No. 73, Winter 1988/89]. Here the premier left-liberal daily, *La Jornada*, which many spokesmen of the Mexican Socialist Party write for, ran a nauseating opinion piece which in the guise of sympathizing with Johnson compared him to a wild jungle animal whose "African blood" did not permit him to comprehend Western logic and rules. Filth. Meanwhile, the Mexican Mandelites' article was titled "We Are All Black Drug Addicts" (copy enclosed).

Comradely,  
S.

Tokyo, Japan  
Jan. 22, 1989

Dear comrades:

This letter is long overdue as I've wanted to comment about the despicable frame-up of sprinter Ben Johnson. With this letter is included a clipping from the *Japan Times*, Tokyo's leading English language daily, on the current drug witchhunt hearings being held in Toronto that targets Ben Johnson as its main victim. I've also sent a photo published in the year end issue of AMPO [Japan-Asia Quarterly Review] which disgustingly equates Ben Johnson with the decrepit, now deceased, Emperor Hirohito. This banner was from an anti-Emperor student demonstration at Meiji University in Tokyo that ridicules both the Showa monarch and Ben Johnson as drug abusers. These students portrayed Johnson in the same racist caricature as the "Sambo" dolls that the "honorary" Aryans in Japan think are cute. This witchhunt against Ben Johnson is spreading internationally and must be stopped!...

Now Canada wants to roast Ben Johnson public-

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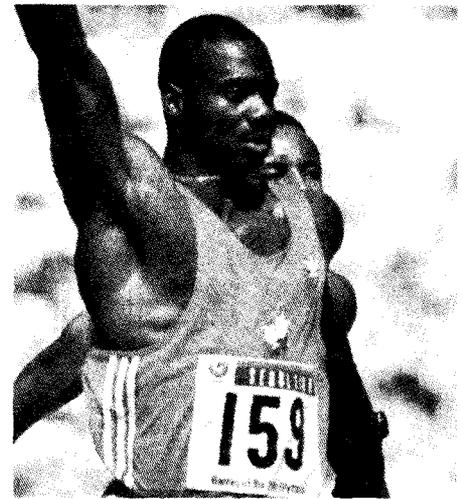
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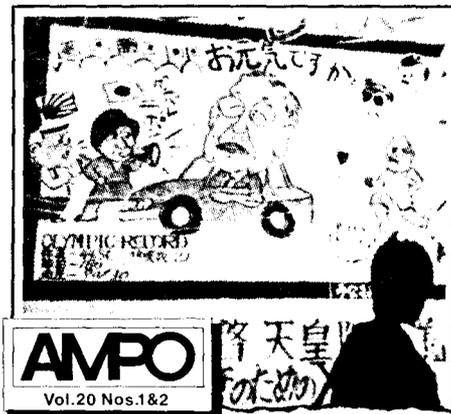
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World's fastest man smeared by Canadian government...



Denis Paquin/Reuter



...and by racist Japanese students as "drug abuser."

ly in their hypocritical drug "inquiry." Just as despicable is the American uncle tom Carl Lewis, who not only spit in Johnson's face by accepting his stolen gold medal, but is now going to Toronto to fink on the world's greatest sprinter. How soon does Lewis forget the vicious gay-baiting he was subjected to after he won a gold medal in LA in 1984. The spineless Lewis can't hold a candle to courageous black American Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

So we must defend this latest victim of racism in sports. Johnson will lose millions in lucrative endorsements that he earned on the track in Seoul. Canada has banned him from competing for two years! This is the same racist shaft that Muhammad Ali got when he was stripped of his heavyweight title in the prime of his career. When Dwight Gooden, the N.Y. Mets star pitcher, was benched for another dixie cup "violation" *Workers Vanguard* demanded "Let Dwight Gooden Pitch!" We must do the same today in Canada; "Let Ben Johnson Run!" We must demand that his gold medal be returned and let the IOC and the Canadian government reimburse Johnson for the money they denied him. In the 19th century Canada was the haven of black slaves who fled the South on the underground railroad. But those days are long gone; just ask Ben Johnson!

Comradely,  
S.H.

# Blacks Under the Gun Racist Cops on the Rampage

"We're in Canada, we can do as we please, and you can't do a thing about it," boasted one of the seven cops who on Sunday January 8 busted up a religious service at the Malvern Christian Assembly church in a Toronto suburb. Claiming to be looking for suspects in a robbery, the cops, one brandishing a shotgun, screamed abuse at the terrified worshippers, arrested a 13-year-old girl and dragged four young men out in handcuffs. Down at the police station the boys were strip-searched, fingerprinted and photographed. The four black and one East Indian youth were then told it was all a case of "mistaken identity," and released. Metro Toronto Deputy Police Chief William McCormack answered the community's outrage: "I really don't know what we would have done differently" (*Globe and Mail*, 12 January).

Far from some isolated incident, the attack on the Malvern church is part of an ominous escalation of racist cop terror:

- On August 9, 1988 Toronto police killed Lester Donaldson, a partially disabled 44-year-old black man, as he was eating dinner in his rooming-house apartment.

- In November, 46-year-old Earl Edwards, born in Jamaica, and his wife Ena were rushing to an Ottawa-area hospital to visit their critically ill son. An OPP officer shot him in the hand as he tried to explain why he was in such a hurry.

- On December 8 cops chasing black high school student Michael Wade Lawson in a car near his middle-class suburban Toronto home shot him in the back of the head through the rear window with an illegal hollow-point bullet. They incredibly claimed self-defense. As Wade lay dying, his 16-year-old



Harvey/Canada Wide

## Toronto cops: Judge, jury and executioner.

friend was dragged from the car, handcuffed to a tree, kicked in the groin while a cop repeatedly screamed, "You fucking nig jig."

- Just as the new year started, Hull police refused to take Minnie Sutherland, a legally blind Native woman who they called a "squaw," to the hospital after a car accident. The cops didn't bother, they said, because she had been drinking. Minnie Sutherland died ten days later of a skull fracture.

- In early February the Toronto cops descended on black neighborhoods and rounded up 225 people in an anti-drug witchhunt that struck terror into the communities.

South of the border, in mid-January a 23-year-old black man, Clement Anthony Lloyd, was shot dead by a cop in Miami's Overtown district in a cold-blooded execution. A longshoreman, one of six witnesses, stated the cop was writing in his notebook when he saw Lloyd and another man on a motorcycle; he grabbed his pistol like he was entering a shooting gallery, crept into the street and fired. This incident triggered three days of anti-police rioting in black areas of Miami.

And in Long Beach, California on January 14, a black cop on leave from the local police, Sergeant Don Jackson, exposed racist police practices by driving through town as an ordinary workman, followed by an unmarked TV van. Within five minutes of entering Long Beach, the camera recorded his arrest on faked traffic violation charges. The incident was shown on national television as viewers saw the cop cursing Jackson and then throwing him

(continued on page 6)



Canada Wide



No Credit

**Michael Wade Lawson (left) and Lester Donaldson (right), victims of badge-toting racists who are licensed to kill.**

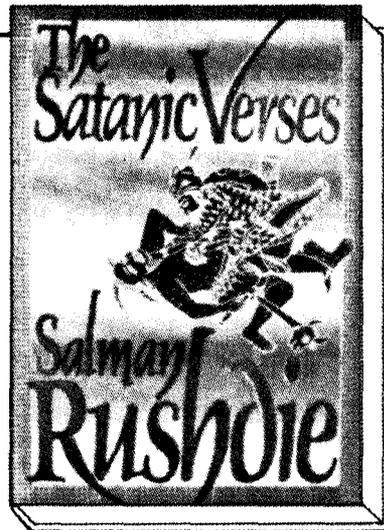
# Salman Rushdie Must Not Be Silenced!

The following article is adapted from a statement issued by the Partisan Defense Committee and the Spartacist League/U.S. on February 22.

Ayatollah Khomeini promises heaven and \$7 million to the assassins of noted author Salman Rushdie as punishment for writing *The Satanic Verses*. Demonstrations of Islamic fanatics against the book in Pakistan and India have killed more than twenty. Ludicrously claiming it might be "hate literature," Revenue Canada briefly banned imports of *The Satanic Verses* on February 17. The same day Coles ordered the book removed from its 198 stores across the country, emulating three big U.S. bookstore chains. Racist South Africa joined the Islamic world



Dejean Sygma



**Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini calls for assassination of *Satanic Verses* author Salman Rushdie.**

in banning the book altogether while French and West German publishers suspended their translations. "Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature," wrote Milton in his eloquent 17th-century defense of freedom of conscience and press, *Areopagitica*, "but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself."

Using the *jihad* against Rushdie, Iran's rulers manipulate passions in order to divert concern for the millions who died in the pointless war with Iraq, and from a shattered economy and endless repression. The Shi'ite theocracy launched its holy war against *The Satanic Verses* after executing thousands of leftists and other dissidents, seeking to drown every manifestation of social discontent in rivers of blood.

The so-called "community of civilized nations" watched the mounting wall of corpses in total silence, while Canada's chief diplomat in Teheran welcomed Iran's "genuine interest in developing relations" with the West. Khomeini's Iran is a foretaste of what a *mujahedin* victory would mean in Afghanistan, where the CIA-backed "freedom fighters" skin alive schoolteachers for teaching girls and women to read. Pursuing its policy of conciliation with the mullahs, the Afghan government has also banned the book!

## RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY, POLITICAL TYRANNY

But the exploitation of religious bigotry in the service of political tyranny is by no means the monopoly of the Islamic world. In the name of "national security" Nixon tried to suppress the *Pentagon Papers*; Thatcher attempted the same with *Spycatcher*. Crying "blasphemy," Christian fundamentalists together with assorted fascist scum have launched a crusade against Martin Scorsese's film *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Bookburners in white sheets and black robes have tried to ban Darwin and even *Goldilocks* from American public and school libraries. D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was banned for decades in Canada, a country built on the "morals" of the racist, colonialist British Empire and rigidly puritanical, bigoted Orange Order reaction. Today Revenue Canada's "Prohibited Importations Unit" regularly bans publications like *Penthouse*, the book *The Joy of Gay Sex* and more. And outrage at Khomeini's death threat against Salman Rushdie could fuel a nativist backlash targeting all Muslims in North America and Europe.

The German Jewish radical poet Heinrich Heine's apt warning is now poignantly displayed at the memorial to the victims of Hitler's Dachau concentration camp: "Once they burn books, they will end up burning people." To preserve a social system which had outlived its progressive mission even before the dawn of this century, the capitalist ruling classes are compelled to revive religious obscurantism, superstition and terror; the pogrom is industrialized, the Inquisition goes high tech, and Armageddon is nuclear. The defense of the social, scientific and cultural achievements of the Renaissance, the great bourgeois-democratic revolutions, and the conquests of the proletarian October Revolution in Russia—from freedom of conscience to freedom from exploitation—is inseparable. In defense of fundamental democratic rights and elemental human decency we demand: Let *The Satanic Verses* Be Read! ■

**Contact the Trotskyist League**

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## International Protests Demand:



Workers Hammer

London, January 14—Iranian leftists joined with Spartacist League/Britain in united-front demonstration.

# Stop the Executions in Iran!

Chants of "Stop the Executions!" resounded outside offices of representatives of the Iranian mullah regime in January, as protesters in seven countries sounded the alarm over the massive wave of killings of leftist political prisoners and other dissidents in Khomeini's jails. They were responding to a call by the international Spartacist tendency and the Partisan Defense Committee for an emergency mobilization to "raise a worldwide cry of outrage against these unspeakable crimes being committed against opponents of the mullahs' dictatorship!"

The wave of executions began last August as the mullahs' regime sought to behead a potential social explosion in the aftermath of the stalemated Iran-Iraq war, which took more than a million lives. An article in the *London Guardian* (13 January) reported that, with thousands already executed:

"...it is difficult to escape the impression that the Ayatollahs, through these executions and the war of attrition just ended against Iraq, have embarked on the decimation of an entire generation, apparently determined to kill off what could have been--had it survived--the cream of tomorrow's intelligentsia."

The victims include supporters of the Islamic populist Mujahedeen, the pro-Moscow Tudeh party, Fedayeen (Majority), Fedayeen (Minority), Revolutionary Workers Organization (Rahe Kargar) and militants among the oppressed Kurdish minority. Women and religious minorities are also being executed, and even "disloyal" mullahs.

Protest demonstrations were held in Hamburg, West Germany; Paris and Lyon, France; London, England; Milan, Italy; Washington, D.C. and New York, USA; Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; and

in Toronto. In calling for an international campaign against the mass slaughter underway in Iran, the iSt and PDC sought a united front protest by diverse groups. In such a united front, each group can present its own political views while making common cause around the central demand of "Stop the Executions in Iran!" And in the event, various exile organizations of the Iranian left, bitterly rent by fratricidal sectarianism, found in the Spartacist-initiated protests their first opportunity to cooperate in a joint action protesting the bloodbath unleashed by the Ayatollah's regime.

The protest called by the Trotskyist League in Toronto on January 14 attracted 60 people to Speakers Corner at City Hall. Cosponsors included supporters of Tudeh and the Fedayeen (Majority) in Canada and the Toronto South Asian Women's Group. Also participating were supporters of Fedayeen Majority, the Communist Party of Iran/Komala and the Democratic Organization of Iranian Women. The Tudeh supporters pulled out early on, objecting to groups carrying any slogans other than the call to stop the executions. However, a Tudeh representative did speak, as did Janet Yip, a member of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Later, the demonstrators marched to a Tudeh hunger strike where TL spokesman Oliver Stephens addressed the protesters. Calling on "the entire left, the labor movement, all supporters of democratic rights" to mobilize against Khomeini's executions, he added: "Even before the mullahs came to power, overthrowing the blood-drenched dictatorship of the shah Pahlavi, the international Spartacist tendency uniquely warned that victory for the mullahs meant a bloodbath. In 1979 we looked not to the

*(continued on page 14)*

## Cops Rampage ...

(continued from page 3)

face-first through a plate-glass window.

On both sides of the 49th parallel the cops' message is that they can do whatever they want, and nothing will stop them—not videotapes, not evidence, not eyewitnesses. Just days after Lester Donaldson was shot down, the annual meeting of the Police Association of Ontario unanimously praised the cop who pulled the trigger. When the killers of Donaldson and Wade Lawson were charged with manslaughter, Toronto police staged a work slowdown January 12 in protest. Art Lymer, presi-



Toronto, December 17: TL joins protest against racist murder of black youth Michael Wade Lawson.

dent of the Metro Toronto Police Association, publicly threatened black people that if they continue seeking elementary justice and redress "violence is going to be provoked against them, and...their life is going to be put in danger" (*Toronto Star*, 15 January). That Sunday nearly half the force held a blood-chilling "rally" to back Lymer and to demand that Ontario's Attorney General be fired.

### GREEN LIGHT FOR RACIST TERROR

This open display of cop bonapartism has even some of the bosses' press worrying about their "boys in blue" getting out of hand. *Globe and Mail* columnist Michael Valpy noted that the "Police force appears as a law unto itself," while the *Toronto Star* editorialized for "Regaining control over Metro Police." But racist cop terror is no "excess" caused by a handful of "bad apples." From the vicious government vendetta against sprinter Ben Johnson to Trade Minister John Crosbie's demand that a French-speaking questioner "speak white," the cops take their cue from the highest corridors of power.

Vicious attacks on minorities are woven into the very fabric of Canadian society, from genocide against the Native peoples to the blood of Chinese workers who built the railways to the rounding-up

of Japanese Canadians into concentration camps during World War II. Yet it is an article of faith among smug Canadian nationalists who peddle the myth of "multiculturalism" that everyone has a place in the great Canadian "mosaic," that racist terror and violence are somehow "unique" to the United States. During the furor over the "free trade" pact the nationalist labor bureaucrats and social democrats of the NDP claimed the deal would mean the end of Canada as a "caring, sharing" society while they whipped up a protectionist frenzy against "foreign" workers which has only emboldened the fascist terrorists and the cops.

The liberal facade of "multiculturalism" has always meant one thing for white people from Europe, and another for everybody else. The past fifteen years have seen a major influx of immigrants from the Far East, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The rich white rulers have responded by whipping up racist anti-immigrant hysteria, targeting "dark-skinned foreigners." Thus Art Lymer ranted that unless the cops have free rein, black people will "just take over the city and you'll be back to Detroit."

While the rulers enact ever more stringent racist immigration laws, on the streets it's the "duly constituted authorities," the cops, who are everywhere the main perpetrators of racist terror. And while incidents of police terror are typically racial, no one is safe when the cops are self-appointed judge, jury and executioner. Consider what happened to Windsor auto worker Bernard Bastien on the night of last August 14. Hearing prowlers outside his modest home, the 34-year-old Bastien got up to investigate, armed for his protection. Within minutes he was slaughtered in a hail of gunfire. The "prowlers" were the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit with orders to "take out" a young man reported to be in the area.

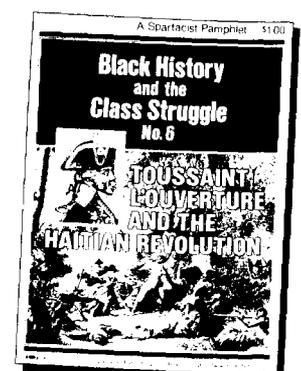
Then there is the case of Cambridge, Ontario resident Colin AuCoin who got lost on Toronto's streets in December 1987 and had the misfortune to drive into a drug squad undercover stakeout operation. The crazed cops blasted away at his car, later dragged him from his hospital bed (still in his hospital gown), charged him with attempted murder and locked him up for ten days. When the bogus charges

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# Atlanta: 3,500 Turn Out Against KKK

On the first day of the Bush administration, Ku Klux Klan and skinhead thugs planned a racist "celebration" of the murder of Martin Luther King with a January 21 march through the Southern city of Atlanta. Their provocation was intended to fuel racist terror across America. The Georgia state house and the black Democratic city administration mobilized an army of 2,000 to protect seven fascists, and to ensure that organized protest would not prevent the race-haters from invading the black city.

But thousands filled Central City Park in downtown Atlanta in a labor/black mobilization of defiance. This integrated demonstration, initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee, the class-struggle legal defense organization associated with the Spartacist League/U.S., brought out over 3,000 unionists, students, gays and socialists—a sight not seen in the open-shop, Klan-infested Deep South for decades.

A special *Workers Vanguard* supplement on the Atlanta labor/black mobilization is available from Spartacist Canada, Box 6867, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X6. **Order yours now!**



were finally tossed out of court a year later, AuCoin was a ruined man, jobless and mentally shattered.

## FASCIST SCUM RAISE THEIR HEADS

The racist terrorists out of uniform are taking their cue from the cops. Joining the Toronto cops' "rally" was the notorious fascist organizer Paul Fromm and something called the "Isaac Brock Society" ("dedicated to the preservation of our Anglo-Saxon heritage"). The fascists "joked" about "stringing up" black activists protesting police terror. Fromm later turned up at a government-appointed whitewash task force into "policing and race relations" backed by 30 black-jacketed skinheads with "Cops Are Tops" buttons. The Nazi-loving skinheads are psycho killers on the loose, human garbage who revel in sadistic attacks on gays, blacks, Asians and anyone else who gets in their way.

A massive show of force by labor, integrated and powerful, is what's needed to send the race terrorists packing. This is exactly what happened in Philadelphia on November 5 last year. When the Ku Klux Klan lynchers and their skinhead thugs threatened to strut into the heart of Philadelphia, the Partisan Defense Committee issued a call for a mass mobilization under the banner "All Out to Stop the Klan!" A mass outpouring of support from labor, black organizations, student groups and more forced the Klan/skinheads to cancel, and more than 1,000 determined anti-Klan protesters rallied on the site of their planned "white pride" provocation.

But behind the skinheads and the hooded racist terrorists stand the badge-toting racists who are *licensed to kill*. In Atlanta on January 21 a combined force of 2,000 heavily armed troops and cops turned the downtown into an armed camp to protect seven Ku Klux Klansmen from mass, organized protest. More minority cops, "independent" investigations, "review" boards—none of these can put an end to racist cop terror whose source is the capitalist system itself. However, to call on black people to go it alone in a racial confrontation with the state—the logic of the anti-white, anti-Asian "Race First" program pushed by the likes of Montreal's *Afro Canadian* newspaper—is simply suicidal in North America. And especially so here in overwhelmingly white Canada.

On December 17 hundreds of angry demonstrators protesting the murder of Wade Lawson called out for "Justice!" Capitalist "justice" comes frequently out of the barrel of a police gun. The power of the integrated working class—immigrant, English-speaking, Québécois—combined with their class brothers in the U.S. can sweep away the racist rule of North American capitalism. Unleashing that power requires a political fight against the pro-capitalist union bureaucrats and their NDP counterparts in the struggle to build a multiracial revolutionary party. It will take North American socialist revolution not only to win justice for the working class and minorities, but simply to make the streets safe from the cops. ■

## Afghanistan ...

(continued from page 1)

Over the past several months, as Soviet troops abandoned one outpost after another, the CIA's "freedom fighters" meted out a taste of their barbarism. In November about 70 Afghan soldiers surrendered to the *mujahedin* at Torkham, on the Afghan side of the Khyber Pass. When government forces retook the outpost several days later, they found their comrades' bodies--mutilated and chopped into pieces--in wooden crates.

The U.S. and its NATO allies are doing everything they can to *set up* a bloodbath. Richard Murphy, a top State Department official under Reagan, predicts the fall of Kabul within a few months, and goes on, "there are very deep passions" that "will be turned against those who have been



Mingam/Gamma

### **Mujahedin hack up the body of man sentenced to death by mullahs.**

central to the regime." In January the State Department sent a formal note to its embassies around the world instructing them to *deny visas to anyone* associated with the Afghan regime. Anticipating the *mujahedin* terrorists' laying waste to Kabul, and in order to sow panic, Washington and its European allies have closed their embassies.

The *Wall Street Journal* (12 January) gloats that "what the Afghans don't know about revenge isn't worth knowing." The victims of the *mujahedin*'s bloodlust will by no means be limited to supporters of the left-nationalist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Even peasants whose only "crime" was not emigrating to Pakistan after 1979 are infidels in the eyes of these Islamic "holy warriors." The fall of Kabul and other Afghan cities would be followed by a massacre of the *entire* educated population, especially tens of thousands of women who escaped from *purdah*

(seclusion) and cast off the *chadori* (the head-to-foot veil).

Even Western bourgeois journalists, particularly if they're women, are anxious about the hideous fate now threatening liberated Afghan women. Mary Williams Walsh reports in the *Wall Street Journal* (19 January):

"The plight of Kabul's women is a poignant reminder that the West's vicarious victory over communist expansion here isn't without its ambiguities. In a backward country where the female peasantry still toils like medieval serfs, Kabuli women have managed to hold on to many 20th-century freedoms.... Instead of staying at home behind *purdah* walls, they emerge each day and work in offices, hospitals and schools."

Walsh contrasts this to the horrible condition of Afghan women in the refugee camps in Pakistan, reporting that "foreign doctors working among the refugee women tell gruesome tales of husbands leaving them to die, rather than permitting diagnosis by a male obstetrician!"

But the battle for Kabul does not look like it is going to be a walkover. The Afghan army is well supplied with Soviet MIG fighter-bombers and medium-range missiles. The government has distributed arms to the population, including young women, creating a 30,000-strong civilian militia. The PDPA regime, in the past given to murderous factional and cliquist infighting, appears committed to a united stand. "We must all fight now," declared Najibullah. Throughout the world every class-conscious worker, socialist and believer in human decency and the rights of man must materially aid the Afghan government against the CIA's Islamic cutthroats.

At stake in the battle for Afghanistan is far more than the fate of this hideously backward land. The armed Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979 provided America's pretext for Cold War II. We proclaimed at the time "Hail Red Army in Afghanistan!" while most self-styled leftists around the world joined the imperialist campaign for Soviet troops out. Well, now the Soviet troops have been pulled out to appease U.S. imperialism. If the *mujahedin* succeed in butchering every leftist, teacher and unveiled woman in Afghanistan, their blood will be on the hands not only of the Bushes, Thatchers, Mulroneys and Kohls, but also on their "left" camp followers.

### **ORIGINS AND NATURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR**

For decades Afghanistan's small number of modernizing intellectuals have generally been pro-Soviet. When they looked across their northern border into Soviet Central Asia, they saw children who could read, women liberated from the veil, and a level of social and economic well-being centuries in advance of Afghanistan. As a result of Soviet central planning, living standards in Tashkent are as high as in Moscow.

In 1965 Afghan leftist circles formed the People's



Sobolev/TASS



Planeta Publishers

**Liberation from the veil and literacy for women are at stake in Afghan war. Left: young girls on their way to school. Right: at Kabul University over half the students are women.**

Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The PDPA was a unique phenomenon in Afghanistan: a secular party not based on any tribal or ethnic group. It claimed adherence to Marxism-Leninism, and its structure was modeled after Stalin's bureaucratized Communist Party. However, its program was limited to moderate reforms to be carried out by a government of "workers, farmers, enlightened and progressive intellectuals, craftsmen, the petit bourgeoisie and national capitalists" (cited in Raja Anwar, *The Tragedy of Afghanistan* [1988]).

Labeled "Communist" by their opponents, the PDPA cadre were in fact modernizing petty-bourgeois nationalists more akin to Kemal Atatürk's Young Turks than to Lenin's Bolsheviks. The PDPA established three bases of support: the country's small urban intelligentsia (e.g., schoolteachers), students, and military officers (many of whom were trained in the Soviet Union). Almost immediately the party split into two factions, the Khalq (Masses) and Parcham (Banner). When Daud Khan ousted the king in 1973, Parcham leaders served as his advisers, while Khalq suggested "a government composed of a 'United Front' including the PDPA."

In April 1978 the Daud regime, prodded by the Western powers and the shah of Iran, moved to suppress the PDPA, arresting its principal leaders on charges of treason. But the party's supporters in the military effectively fought back and toppled Daud. The so-called "Saur Revolution" was in fact a left-wing military coup with considerable support among the urbanized population.

The PDPA found itself ruling a population of 15 million people, overwhelmingly rural and scattered in isolated river valleys. On the local level tribal chiefs shared power and land with some 300,000 Islamic mullahs, who made up a privileged landowning caste. Taking the country as a whole, there was about one industrial worker for every eight mullahs! The peasants were totally in thrall to the khans, who controlled the sources of credit, seed, fertilizer and, in this arid land, even water. Forget proletarian

revolution--Afghanistan could not even sustain the kind of widespread peasant revolt experienced in medieval France, Russia and China.

Thus when the PDPA government attempted to institute a program of minimal democratic measures--land reform, elimination of the bride price for women, universal education for both sexes--it instantly outpaced the social forces to sustain them. The khans and mullahs, driven into a frenzy by such measures as teaching young girls to read, launched a reactionary *jihad* and began slaughtering teachers and PDPA activists.

The growing revolt received immediate support from the Pakistani regime of military dictator Zia ul-Haq, acting as quartermaster for the United States. Zia was continuing the policy of his predecessor, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who had started arming the ultra-fundamentalist Islamic Party of Gulbaddin Hekmatyar in the early 1970s. The aim of the Pakistani ruling class (led now by Bhutto's daughter, after Zia's death last August) is the creation of a weak Islamic client state to its north.

At the same time, the PDPA regime was ripping itself apart through murderous factionalism and cliquism. Khalq leader Noor Mohammed Taraki was  
*(continued on page 10)*

## Trotskyist League Forum

### Battle for Afghanistan

**Speakers:**

- Miriam McDonald, *Spartacist Canada* Editorial Board
- Anna Ullman, *Spartacist Canada* Editorial Board, recently returned from a visit to Soviet Central Asia

Saturday 1 April 7:30 p.m.,  
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**TORONTO**

## Afghanistan ...

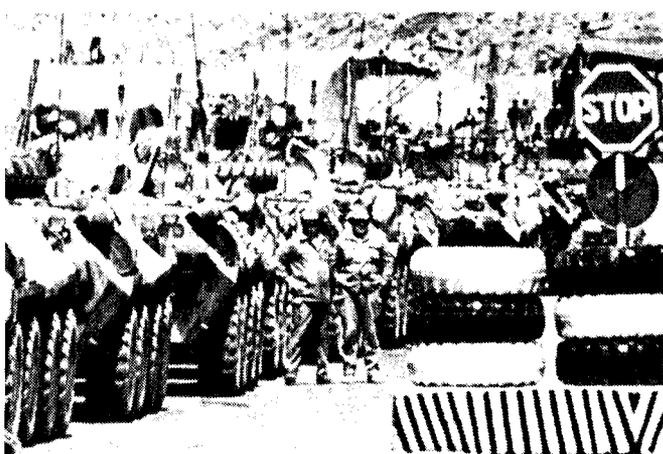
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killed by his former protégé Hafizullah Amin. Amin, in turn, was assassinated in the course of the Soviet intervention in December 1979 which installed Babrak Karmal, leader of the Parcham faction. Only five of the party leaders in April 1978 escaped being killed, imprisoned or exiled by their "comrades" over the next few years. An ever smaller group of modernizing intellectuals was being pitted against a mass reactionary revolt.

It was only the Soviet military intervention of December 1979 which opened the road to the liberation of the Afghan toiling masses. Although



Downing Newsweek



Nickelberg/Time

**Bush and Reagan meet with Gorbachev last December. Kremlin leader pulls Soviet troops out of Afghanistan to appease U.S. imperialism.**

conducted halfheartedly, sending troops into Afghanistan was the one unambiguously decent and progressive act of the corrupt and conservative Brezhnev regime, going against the grain of the reactionary Stalinist dogma of "socialism in one country." We wrote at the time:

"There can be no question that for revolutionaries our side in this conflict is with the Red Army. In fact, although uncalled for militarily, a natural response on the part of the world's

young leftists would be an enthusiastic desire to join an international brigade to fight the reactionary CIA-connected rebels."

--"Hail Red Army!" *Spartacist* No. 27-28, Winter 1979-80

We further raised the demand to extend the social gains of the October Revolution to the Afghan peoples.

The Western press hoped and speculated that the Soviet troops, especially those from the traditionally Islamic regions of Central Asia, would become infected with the "liberating" message of the *mujahedin*. But Soviet soldiers sent into battle were told they were fulfilling their duty toward their Afghan brothers, and their experiences in the country convinced them of it. Most were appalled at the backwardness, poverty and hideous oppression they witnessed in a country so close to home. One Soviet Tadzhik soldier told a Western reporter in the early days of the war that "most of them were glad to go to help--it's a very backward country and we are neighbors, after all" (*New York Times*, 11 April 1980).

While Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan were generally proud to do their internationalist duty, the Kremlin bureaucracy did not send them there out of internationalist commitment. As we wrote a few months later:

"Of course, the conservative bureaucrats in the Kremlin did not send 100,000 troops into Afghanistan to effect a social revolution, but simply to make secure an unstable, strategically placed client state.... It is possible the Kremlin could do a deal with the imperialists to withdraw, for example, in return for NATO's reversing its decision to deploy hundreds of new nuclear missiles in West Europe. That would be a real counterrevolutionary crime against the Afghan peoples."

--"Afghanistan and the Left: The Russian Question Point Blank," *Spartacist* No. 29, Summer 1980

### IMPERIALIST HUE AND CRY OVER AFGHAN "SELF-DETERMINATION"

For almost a decade the demand for Soviet troops out of Afghanistan has united the far right, liberals, social democrats and most self-styled radicals. Afghanistan and Polish Solidarność, the only "union" Ronald Reagan loved, have been two central issues defining which side you're on in Cold War II. Thus the hard pro-Moscow factions in the Eurocommunist parties were variously dubbed *afganos* (Spain), *ka-bulisti* (Italy) and "tankies" (Britain).

An Iranian woman leftist, Val Moghadam, drawing on the bitter experience of Khomeini's "Islamic Revolution," expresses consternation that:

"Left-wing support for the Mujahedeen has been especially strong in Europe, where activists from London to Stockholm have defended the putative national liberation struggle. One of the surprising features of this support has been the total ne-

## PDC: For Internationalist Military Support to Afghan Government!

We reprint below a letter from the Partisan Defense Committee to the government of Afghanistan, offering concrete support in the struggle against the murderous reactionary mujahedin. The letter proposes organization of an international brigade to assist in defending the Afghan peoples against the CIA's feudalistic terrorists. When we spoke with representatives of the Afghan government about the letter, they thanked us for this initiative while indicating that they believe such a measure is not necessary to defend the country at this time.

7 February 1989

To: Ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

With the withdrawal of the Soviet Army now completed, we join with you in fearing that elementary social progress is in grave danger in Afghanistan. The right of women to read, freedom from the veil, freedom from the tyranny of the mullahs and the landlords, the introduction of medical care and the right of all to an education—we are compelled to offer our aid before all this is drowned in blood. The Partisan Defense Committee hereby makes the urgent offer to organize an international brigade to fight to the death in defense of these rights in Afghanistan. Volunteers would of course operate under your control and direction.

The Partisan Defense Committee is a class-struggle defense organization supported by militant Marxists worldwide, many associated with the international Spartacist tendency.

In making this offer, we pledge to handle all aspects of agitation, propaganda and recruitment necessary to amass forces and publicize the effort. These forces would be recruited internationally from among disaffected progressive youth, leftist militants, liberation fighters, and decent people who wish to prevent the destruction of any vestige of human progress achieved through struggle. We further pledge to provide transport to an appropriate transit point. International fighters would be expected to acquire equipment when in place.

From the Afghan government we would need air fare from a transit point to Kabul and, in the field, food and military direction.

Capitalist governments which hypocritically condemned the presence of the Red Army in Afghanistan are fleeing Kabul, aghast at the prospect of a full-scale civil war reaching that city. They abandon their embassies now in the hopes of returning after the victory of the feudal-ist mujahedin. This must not happen!

We hope most fervently that you will accept this offer of assistance proffered with a keen sense of internationalist duty. Please respond as soon as possible.

glect of the meaning of national liberation under an Islamic rubric for Afghan women. Since the Saur revolution (April 1978), and to some degree even prior to it, women have made incremental but important gains in education, employment and political participation. Indeed, it was precisely the reform programs launched by the PDPA government that provoked reaction....

"By all accounts and indications a Mujahedeen-ruled Afghanistan would be more intolerant and repressive than the Islamic Republic of Iran and would work fervently to undo the measures taken toward women's equality."

—*Against the Current*,

November/December 1988

Moghadam asks how it is possible for leftists, including self-styled radical feminists, to support such a reactionary and barbaric movement. Her answer: "It can only be a misguided Third Worldism and fascination with any and all guerrilla warfare that prevents leftists from discerning reactionary movements." This explanation is wide of the mark. Practically no Western leftists support the guerrillas of

the Nicaraguan contras or Jonas Savimbi's UNITA in Angola. Moreover, some leftists (e.g., Tariq Ali) who joined the imperialist chorus for Soviet troops out initially *supported* the PDPA against the *mujahedin* revolt *before* the Soviet intervention.

Western leftist support for Washington's Afghan cutthroats (and also for Polish Solidarność) expresses anti-Soviet prejudices and the elevation of national independence as the highest political principle. Since 1917 when the Russian Revolution toppled capitalism in one-sixth of the globe, the imperialists' central aim has been to reverse the gains of October and restore capitalist exploitation in this bastion of workers power. That is why the entire apparatus of political indoctrination in North America and West Europe is geared to producing hatred and fear of the Soviet Union, a bureaucratically degenerated workers state.

The standard line of Western imperialism and its left camp followers is that "Russia violated Afghan national self-determination." This charge doesn't even hold up on its own terms. Afghanistan is not

(continued on page 12)

## Afghanistan ...

(continued from page 11)

a nation but a feudal-derived state composed of a mosaic of nationalities, ethnic and tribal groupings. Most of the rural population has never lived under the effective control of any central state power, but identifies exclusively with particular ethnic, tribal or linguistic groupings. In Afghanistan the term "Afghan" refers *only* to the Pushtuns, not to the Hazaras, Tadjiks and other peoples.

Should the *mujahedin* topple the Kabul nationalist government, the two-sided civil war could well become a war of all against all. Already, Shi'ite groups are refusing to accept Sunni domination, and the rival *mujahedin* groups are threatening to kill one another. We can only hope they do so quickly and massively. Yet even if the country were a homogeneous nation, communists would support the Soviet



Smolian/Contact

**Kabul parade greets Soviet troops arriving to back up left-nationalist PDPA regime, 1980.**

Union's armed intervention. All talk of Afghan "national sovereignty" is but a cover to defend the class and caste privileges of the khans, mullahs, landlords and moneylenders. For Marxists, the furthering of *social revolution*, including the defense of the USSR against capitalist imperialism, stands higher than the bourgeois-democratic right of national self-determination.

### RUSSIA'S VIETNAM?

Ever since the 1979 Soviet intervention, the Western media has labeled Afghanistan "Russia's Vietnam," an insidious lie now taken up for its own rea-

sons by the Gorbachev regime. In Vietnam the U.S. fought a genocidal war to stop a social revolution, and was defeated *on the battlefield*. The Soviet army fought to stop *counterrevolution* which would turn back the clock by centuries, but never fought to win. From the outset the Kremlin tops kept open the option of withdrawal as a bargaining chip in dealing with Western imperialism. The U.S. sent 500,000 troops halfway around the world to Vietnam. The Soviet leaders sent just 100,000 troops across the border into Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, by 1984 the Soviet and PDPA forces had practically won the war. The CIA's "holy warriors" were shattered and demoralized. And the government's modest social reforms, although scaled back from even the moderate program first offered by the PDPA, were winning support in the countryside. One rebel leader stated: "The war has been deadlocked up until now, but we are beginning to lose the population.... If this continues, we may eventually lose the war" (*Chicago Tribune*, 16 November 1984).

Seeking to turn the tide, in early 1986 the U.S. began supplying the *mujahedin* with state-of-the-art Stinger missiles. Soon these shoulder-fired rockets were bringing down scores of Soviet and Afghan aircraft, including civilian airplanes. Soviet military aircraft were so crucial to the Afghan war only because the Kremlin was willing to commit but a *small fraction* of its five-million-strong armed forces. Even so, the Russians could have easily deployed available technology to defeat the "Stinger war," but they did not. And no serious effort was made to interdict the flow of U.S.-supplied weapons from Pakistan.

When Gorbachev came to power in 1985, he faced economic stagnation aggravated by the intensified military pressure from Reagan's America. His domestic program of market-oriented reforms (*perestroika*) was linked to a foreign policy of global appeasement. Gorbachev's most dramatic foreign policy initiative was to cut and run from Afghanistan.

To help set this up, the Kremlin strong-armed the PDPA regime into calling for "national reconciliation," i.e., a coalition government with sections of the *mujahedin*. In 1986 Afghan leader Karmal was dumped, apparently because he resisted the new turn. He was replaced by Najibullah, who at the beginning of 1987 declared a unilateral cease-fire while further scaling back progressive social reforms so as not to affront Islamic tradition. Calling for a coalition of the PDPA and *mujahedin* is somewhat like calling in the 1930s for a coalition of Nazis and Jewish leftists. The *mujahedin* want not only to kill every leftist in Afghanistan but to exterminate the *entire* educated urban population, whom they regard as infidels.

The Gorbachev regime appears willing to accept such a bloodbath if it is necessary to appease the Western powers. A historical parallel is Stalin's pulling the Red Army out of northern Iran in 1946, abandoning the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan under the Cold War pressure of U.S. imperialism.

There followed a massacre of pro-Soviet Iranian leftists at the hands of the shah.

To prepare the Soviet people for the abandonment of Afghanistan, Kremlin officials and the Soviet me-



Workers Vanguard

**"Hail Red Army!" Spartacist contingent in 1980 Washington anti-draft demonstration confronts imperialist hysteria over Afghanistan.**

dia are parroting the imperialist lie that the Afghan intervention was wrong, that the lives of the 15,000 Soviet soldiers killed there were simply wasted, that Afghanistan is Russia's Vietnam.

Soviet veterans of the Afghan war are being treated like pariahs instead of heroes. In their fight for official recognition, these veterans (the *afghan-tsy*) deeply resent the comparison of their internationalist combat duty to Washington's drive to transform Southeast Asia into a moonscape. One veteran activist told the West German magazine *Der Spiegel* (7 March 1988): "Our sacrifices were not for nothing. We have after all brought there the achievements of the civilized world." Honor Soviet veterans of the war in Afghanistan!

**DEFEAT IMPERIALISM THROUGH COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM!**

During the 19th century Afghanistan was a chessboard on which the "Great Game" between tsarist Russia and Great Britain was played out. But in 1917 the Bolshevik Revolution changed the rules of this "game." Imperialist machinations in the region now had as their ultimate goal the destruction of the Soviet workers state and the opening up of its vast territory for capitalist plunder.

After World War II Pakistan became the U.S.' main client in the region, but Washington never lost sight of Afghanistan's potential military value in a counterrevolutionary assault on the USSR. In the early 1960s the U.S. offered to build an airport at Kandahar for the Afghan king Zahir Shah. The Pentagon secretly planned to use it as a "recovery base" where bombers could land after attacking Soviet targets in Siberia or Central Asia" (Henry Bradsher,

*Afghanistan and the Soviet Union* [1983]).

U.S. imperialism wants to turn Afghanistan into not only a military forward point but also a conduit for anti-Communist agitation among the Turkic peoples of Soviet Central Asia. A few years ago the most rabid of the *mujahedin* leaders, Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, declared: "If the Mujahideen continue to fight persistently, the day is not far when the occupied areas of Soviet Central Asia will also be liberated." It is ludicrous to think that the Central Asian population--freed from religious obscurantism and grinding oppression, and enjoying modern medical care, universal education and an incomparably higher standard of living--would want to link up with a reactionary Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, Gorbachev's *perestroika* has fueled reactionary nationalist currents in the Caucasus and Baltic republics. And Central Asia is certainly not immune. Moscow's increasing reliance on market forces will tend to favor the more developed regions of European Russia, the Ukraine and Baltic republics. Under these conditions pan-Turkic nationalism in Islamic coloration could make headway in the Central Asian republics.

The Soviet Union is confronting a deepening political and economic crisis. The bureaucratic centralism of the Brezhnev era led to stagnation. Gorbachev's *perestroika* will generate unemployment, increasing inequalities and intensifying national animosities. Internationally, his policy of appeasement will only embolden the imperialist drive to roll back Soviet power and influence.

Afghanistan's modernizing intellectuals have viewed Soviet Central Asia, despite the enormous deformations of Stalinism, as representing social progress. Under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky, Bolshevik Russia was viewed as beacon of the socialist future by workers and radical intellectuals around the world, including in the imperialist centers of North America and Europe. The Soviet Union can and must be restored to its rightful place as a bastion of international communism through proletarian political revolution against the treacherous Kremlin bureaucracy.

--Adapted from Workers Vanguard No. 471, 17 February

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## Iran Executions ...

(continued from page 5)

mullahs, but to the powerful working class, particularly the predominantly Arab oil workers in the south, as the only force able to lead all the oppressed in the revolutionary destruction of the shah's dictatorship through socialist revolution. Armed with this program of permanent revolution, the iST proclaimed 'Down with the shah! Down with the mullahs! For workers revolution in Iran!'

"What is desperately needed, comrades and friends, is the construction of authentic Leninist revolutionary parties in Iran and Iraq. For in those countries the massacres and repressions can be ended only when the toiling masses have communist vanguard parties forged in irreconcilable hostility to their 'own' reactionary rulers. It will take workers revolution to open the prison doors, to free the victims of Islamic reaction, liberate oppressed minorities and stop the vicious cycle of bloodletting once and for all. Stop the executions in Iran! Workers to power!" ■

The executions in Iran continue. Reportedly members of Khomeini's "Revolutionary Guards" have demanded that the number of executions, for which they are paid, be increased. The Mujahedeen are still being executed, even those who are sick, wounded, or in coma. Baluchis, too, are being rounded up for alleged "drug running." It is also reported that there are nooses hanging at major intersections in Teheran to terrorize the population. The workers movement and all defenders of democratic rights must raise an international cry of protest against these barbaric atrocities!



Le Bolchevik



SC Photo

International Spartacist tendency-initiated protests: Paris (top), January 11 and Toronto, January 14.

## B.C....

(continued from page 16)

of their boats, their orchards, everything they had built up over generations, and interned in concentration camps.

Despite Canada's racist immigration laws, Vancouver today has more than a quarter million Asian residents, 20 percent of the population and growing rapidly. For nearly half the school-age population, English is a second language; and of these three-quarters are children of immigrants from Hong Kong, India, the Philippines and other Asian countries. This changing face of the city has led to a sharp heightening of anti-immigrant hysteria, given particular virulence under the rule of Social Credit premier William Vander Zalm.

The Socreds got their start as a prairie populist "funny money" party, appealing to backward rural bigotry and anti-Semitism in railing against "Eastern bankers." In power they are enforcers of the untrammled rule of big business. Vander Zalm has sought to break the back of B.C.'s powerful labor movement through vicious union-busting and

Mussolini-style corporatist laws. He admonishes pregnant girls to "have a faith in Jesus Christ" as he rails against abortion. He threatens AIDS victims with concentration camps, and explains that thousands of poor school kids are hungry because of "unloving" parents. From deriding former Quebec premier René Lévesque as a "frog" in the 1970s, to demanding the immediate deportation of East Indian refugees in 1987 ("send the claimants back home"), this right-wing fanatic epitomizes and galvanizes the most grotesque forms of bigotry and chauvinism.

Now Lower Mainland yuppies and "native" B.C. speculators are up in arms over the purchase of prime chunks of Vancouver-area real estate by millionaire Hong Kong investors. Much of the recent chauvinist fury has been directed against the sale of land on the former Expo site on False Creek to Hong Kong businessman Li Ka-shing, whose son then launched a condo development which sold out on the Hong Kong market in three hours. The Socreds are encouraging international investment with a glossy world-wide ad campaign—but while they want Asian money, they don't want Asian *people* moving into their exclusive, lily-white Vancouver neighborhoods. If your skin isn't white, a couple of million

bucks still won't make you a "desirable resident" of Kerrisdale or Shaughnessy Heights.

**DOWN WITH ANTI-IMMIGRANT RACISM!**

The furor over the "Asian menace" in B.C. is part of the general anti-immigrant, anti-refugee hysteria being whipped up by the capitalist rulers. Following the arrival of desperate Tamil, Sikh and Central American refugees seeking asylum in 1986/87, the government in Ottawa has tightened the already openly racist immigration and refugee laws. Now refugee claimants can be refused entry on the spot, and Tory immigration minister Barbara McDougall warned those who have managed to make it into Canada: "I want to state categorically that removals will take place."

A new round of deportations has begun, and legal experts predict these will be massive, in the tens of thousands. While Sikhs, Filipinos, Jamaicans, Latin American refugees from death-squad terror are stopped at the border or face expulsion, anti-communists like Orion Pastora, cousin of Nicaraguan contra terrorist Edén Pastora, glide down the Tories' refugee "fast track." And defectors from the Soviet Union and East Europe can step off the plane at Gander with virtually no questions asked. In the 1930s the Canadian rulers closed the door to Jews fleeing Hitler's "final solution." After the war they welcomed Nazi war criminals and fascistic East European "captive nations" types. The bottom line is, only those who serve the Cold War anti-Soviet crusade need apply.

Mulroney's "loyal opposition" in the Liberal Party and the right-wing social democrats of the NDP have joined the anti-immigrant clamor. John Turner denounced East Indian refugees fleeing persecution for "queue-jumping," while NDP chief Ed Broadbent demanded a "tougher look at all our immigration procedures" to prevent "abuse" by "quick buck" artists. Meanwhile the Stalinist Communist Party (CP), which has significant weight in the B.C. labor movement, obscenely claimed that "terrorist Sikhs" were "getting the green light" from the government (see "CP Hails Racist Crackdown on Sikhs," SC No. 69, November 1987). This isn't the first time the CP has covered for vile anti-Asian chauvinism. In World War II they were fervent supporters of their "own" imperialists' war effort against Japan and hailed the government's internment of Japanese Canadians.

Today, the pro-capitalist trade union bureaucracy and their NDP counterparts *directly fuel* chauvinist racism against "foreigners" with their nationalist crusade for "Canadian jobs for Canadian workers." The labor skates sell the lie that foreign (especially Asian) workers, not Canadian bosses, are responsible for the unemployment and poverty that are endemic to capitalism. For example, Woodworkers president Jack Munro is campaigning to "save jobs" in B.C. sawmills by banning the export of logs to Japan and Korea. And Vancouver alderman Harry Rankin, a regular columnist for the CP's *Pacific Tribune*, pushes the same poisonous nationalism. Denouncing the sale of the False Creek condos in Hong Kong, Rankin said: "The basic issue is to give Canadians

the first and only chance to buy.... No offshore people should be allowed to speculate in this market" (*Vancouver Sun*, 19 December 1988).

Ultimately the whole protectionist crusade is, quite literally, deadly. Witness the brutal murder of Chinese American Vincent Chin in Detroit by a racist auto foreman and his stepson who thought he "looked Japanese." We Trotskyists say, "Workers, don't buy protectionist poison!" and fight for united international working-class action against the union-busters from Bay Street and Wall Street to Tokyo and Seoul, South Korea.



SC Photo

**Toronto 1987: TL protests racist deportations.**

As proletarian internationalists we greet the infusion of immigrant workers into North America, who can be a living link to common class struggle across the Pacific Basin, south to Latin America, and beyond. The B.C. labor movement, with its increasingly integrated pulp and paper, wood, longshore, postal and hospital unions must take the lead in the fight against all aspects of racial oppression. But that requires a direct struggle against the nationalist union and NDP misleaders. The Trotskyist League is dedicated to building a multiracial revolutionary workers party which can lead the working class in the struggle to smash racist North American capitalism. Stop the deportations! Down with the racist immigration laws! Full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers and their families! ■

**International Women's Day 1989**

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# SPARTACIST CANADA

## Racist Anti-Asian Hysteria in B.C.

In the early 1900s it was the Asiatic Exclusion League; in the 1930s, the White Canada Association. Today the names have changed, but it's the same dirty "yellow peril" racism. Xenophobic outfits, headed by "pillars of the Establishment" and devoted to whipping up hatred against Indian, Chinese and other Asian immigrants, are again spewing their filth on Canada's West Coast.

Lumber baron J.V. Clyne, a former British Columbia Supreme Court judge and chairman of MacMillan Bloedel, is a spokesman for the self-styled Immigration Association of Canada. "I'd not want to see us cease to be a white country," he sputters, ranting, "You go out to the east end [of Vancouver] and you think you're in China." Jack Volrich, a former Vancouver mayor, heads up another anti-Asian cabal, the British/European Immigration Aid Foundation. In January he chaired a public meeting of 200 on how to "promote and preserve the British/European character of our nation," with featured speaker Charles Campbell, former vice-president of the federal Immigration Appeal Board.

Meanwhile racist terror stalks the streets. The early 80s saw firebombings of Sikh temples and homes in South Vancouver. Last year coastal residents and white fishermen attacked Vietnamese-Canadian clam diggers with rocks and bottles. And, ominously, on February 16, 75 anti-Asian bigots, including 20 skinheads aligned with the sinister and violent "Aryan Resistance," gathered in the Hotel Vancouver to applaud a tirade by a former member of the now-defunct fascist Western Guard.

Writing in the February 16 *Vancouver Sun*, journalist Eric Downton captured the ugly racist climate: "You don't have to go as far as Pretoria to find the spirit of apartheid. It is alive and growing right here in Vancouver." *The power of labor must be mobilized against the dangerous rise of anti-immigrant reaction. For labor/minority action to smash racist and fascist attacks! Full citizenship rights for foreign-born workers and their families!*

British Columbia has always been at the center of racist anti-Asian reaction in Canada. In 1914 a band of courageous Sikhs aboard the freighter



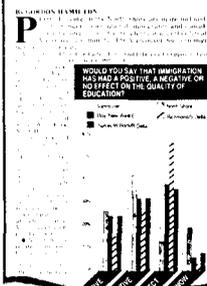
### Resentment feared as condos sold to Hong Kong residents

### Group bands together to stem influx



### Poll finds N. Shore coolest on immigrants

THE FACES OF IMMIGRATION



### Bourgeois press reports and fuels upsurge of anti-immigrant racism in B.C.

*Komagata Maru* tried to crack the Canadian government's color bar; penned on board ship at Vancouver for weeks without fresh food or water, they were finally forced to return to India when the Royal Canadian Navy threatened to sink their vessel. In 1923, after the railway and mining magnates had sated their need for cheap, expendable Chinese labor, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, effectively sealing the borders to non-white immigration. And in World War II, the Japanese Canadians who had created the B.C. fisheries and Fraser Valley fruit industry were expelled from the Lower Mainland, robbed

(continued on page 14)

# Full Citizenship Rights for Foreign-Born Workers!