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Fourth
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TORCH

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of the
Revolutionary
Socialist League

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Veto of Trade Embargo Means U.S. UP TO OLD TRICKS IN AFRICA



Soweto students march against the government's rent increases. This is one of the many protests against the racist South African government organized by the militant students of Soweto.

By TONY CURZO

Things are coming to a head in South Africa. The revolutionary struggle of the Black masses continues to grow. The white minority government is stepping up its repression. In this situation, the U.S. pretends to be a friend of South Africa's Black people, while it tries to undercut their struggle ev-

ery way it can.

The Black revolutionary upsurge has thrown South Africa's white rulers into a frenzy. In the last two months, they have moved to crush the Black revolutionary movement. On September 12, they killed Stephen Biko, the leader of the Black consciousness movement, who was being held in prison without charges. In the following two weeks, the apartheid rulers tried to stamp out the widespread protests and demonstrations that followed Biko's death. Several youths were killed. Hundreds of other Black people were injured or arrested in these actions.

On October 19, the white minority government stepped up the repression. In one big crackdown, it outlawed 17 Black organizations and a multi-racial church
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Toward Unity of the Working Class

We are reprinting the following statement from the September 1977 issue of "Forward," newspaper of the Revolutionary Marxist League (RML) of Jamaica. (See article on RML Founding Congress on page 10.) The RSL agrees 100 percent with this statement by the RML on the crucial question of unity within the working-class movement.

At the present time when the local big capitalists are on the rampage, solid working-class unity is key. On this all genuine Marxists are agreed. The disagreement arises on how this unity is to be achieved. By simply calling a unity conference of various left-wing liberal and democratic organizations? Or by all left-wing organizations sinking their differences and joining together in one big organization? No, neither of these methods will work. The Revolutionary Marxist League has taken part in many such attempts since its formation as the Revolutionary Marxist League in late 1974. All have failed.

LENIN ON UNITY

We of the RML see the way to real principled unity as being that advocated by Lenin over 75 years ago:

"Unity cannot be decreed,

it cannot be brought about by a decision, say, of a meeting of representatives; it must be worked for. In the first place, it is necessary to work for solid ideological unity... before we can unite, and in order that we may unite, we must first of all draw firm and definite lines of demarcation. Otherwise, our unity will be purely fictitious, it will conceal the prevailing confusion and hinder

its radical elimination." ("Declaration of the Editorial Board of Iskra," Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 4, Pg. 354.)

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

Rigorous ideological struggle and debate is crucial in forging a real Leninist unity. By this means it will be possible to expose the vari-

ous misleaders of the working class. This is vital. Chile in 1973 is only the latest of a host of catastrophic defeats brought down on the working class by misleaders. The weeding out of misleaders is central to the task of building a revolutionary vanguard party organized in every country of the world and capable of leading the world's workers and op-
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sección
en
español



**Founding Congress of the
REVOLUTIONARY
MARXIST
LEAGUE
of Jamaica
see page 10**

**our
readers
write...**

Send letters to:
**TORCH, PO Box 562,
N.Y., N.Y. 10036**

We Refuse To Be Treated Like Dogs

The struggle in the Marion, Illinois, long-term control unit continues. Marion is the new Alcatraz of the U.S. prison system. In it is the long-term control unit, a prison inside a prison, where prisoners are sometimes kept until they die. One prisoner, "Red" Hayes, served over 11 years in solitary confinement. He died recently in the control unit. He was not the first. Before him were three other prisoners who had died in four years.

The control unit has been called several different things over the years. It was called the C.A.R.E. behavior modification unit until the court ruling against the S.T.A.R.T. behavior modification unit in Springfield, Missouri.

Then the bureau of prisons used the strategy of changing the name but leaving the unit as it is. The Peoples' Law Office in Chicago, Illinois, and the National Prison Project in Washington, D.C., filed a class action civil suit to abolish the control unit. This suit received lots of publicity and public attention, so again the bureau used a tactic to try to keep from closing the unit. This tactic was one of pacification. They installed televisions in each cell, a coffee pot of hot water on the tiers, a weight machine and an ice machine.

But certain aspects have remained over the years that the bureau has no intention of changing, as they provide the basic tactics that they hope to break the wills of the prisoners it holds. These tactics include keeping prisoners indefinitely in the unit with no limitations until they feel the prisoner is broken. Tampering with the prisoners' mail and often throwing some of it away to try to reinforce the idea to the prisoner that nobody on the outside cares about him. Forcing the prisoners to visit their loved ones behind a bulletproof glass in handcuffs and to talk to their visitors on a telephone to try to discourage visitors and further convince the prisoner he is alone, and with the handcuffs to try to convince the families of the prisoners that the men are animals.

And then there are the individual acts of harassment that the bureau insists are the action of the officers and not sanctioned by the bureau, and yet the bureau condones it. For instance, Officer Michael Harriss admitted before an investigation led by Congressman Herman Badillo that he threw urine on Black Muslim prisoners and in fact kept a

bottle of urine in the unit just for this purpose. Officer Harriss received a week's suspension, but again works in the control unit.

Another instance occurred October 5, 1977. Prisoners Cadillac Smith, Shepherd-Bey and Marshall gathered \$10 in store to share with one of their brothers. Lt. Allen took this store and threw it away. Or October 6, 1977, the officer had a fly in the food of one prisoner. When the prisoner asked for a different tray, he was denied. So the prisoner protested by throwing the tray out on the tier. Or the losing of personal funds. This writer was told by the inmate store that they lost \$42 of his.

The prisoners in the control unit have struggled against their repression without let-up. They refuse to be pacified or broken. For everyone that is broken or dies another rises to protest and say no.

We are humans. We refuse to be treated like dogs. We demand justice or we will fight you till there is not a breath in our bodies. We ask all of our readers to support us in our fight for justice. You can help us by writing a simple letter to: **Judge James Foreman, U.S. District Court, St. Louis, Illinois**, and demanding him to rule in favor of the prisoners in the **Bono v. Saxbe** suit and to close the control unit. You can also help by sending copies of your letters to: **Michael Deutsch, Law Office, 343 S. Dearborn Street, Room 1607, Chicago, Illinois 60604**.

We love you and need you. Together we will defeat our common oppression.

**Freedom is never free—
ES**

"I Really Support Your Ideas"

Dear Comrades,

I read the article on the U.S. imperialism in South Africa. It is really interesting and it is the type of article I have always been anxious to read.

If in any case apartheid is to be annihilated, those adjacent states should boycott trade or anything like that sort with South Africa—especially if Angola and Mozambique would end the selling of hydroelectric power to South Africa. It would be very sound if they would terminate the "selling" of people to the South African government. Can't the U.S. work out any plans to help eliminate apartheid and still have their industries invested there? I am sure in the nearest future if the African leaders realize that apartheid is still strong, they will apply sophisticated arms and throw off Vorster and his evil followers. I am not sure these African leaders have caught Carter and Young's mischief.

Has the Soviet Union investments in South Africa? If not, then I am certain things will go quite easy for the Africans if there happened to be deadly military attacks by the Africans. I am sure the Soviets would aid the Africans with ammunitions if it came to fighting if they had no investments in South Africa.

My Canadian friend recently wrote to me and I am sorry and distressed that she says she could not subscribe to your ideas. She says that you seem to advocate the overthrow of the U.S. system of government. I wonder what you might have written to her. I told her that I really support your ideas and will always campaign for it. Those white people normally do not support such revolutionary movements as they don't recognize how Black masses are suffering in different parts of the world.

I hail your article on page 3 of the March-April issue, Vol. 4, No. 3 of the *Torch* entitled "Andrew Young: The front man of U.S. imperialism." In fact I don't understand why that Andrew Young man is selling Black nature, being a Black and going against them just because of money.

The article on Idi Amin in the March-April issue of the *Torch*, as well as in the *Forward*, that pamphlet you sent recently, is greatly appre-

ciated. Amin is a very wicked ruler and deserves a real punishment when 'captured.' He is a man of tribalism and being a Moslem he hates Christians. It was brutal of him killing an Anglican bishop and two Cabinet ministers and trying to conceal it by saying they were involved in a lorry accident.

I thank you very much for that pamphlet entitled "The Rise of State Capitalism." The *Forward* is appreciated.

General Acheampong's actions are very irritating. Quite recently students in the universities mounted mass demonstrations against him. Workers later joined the riot and it was hectic. The reason for the riot is the head of state's proposed "union government." The "union government" he describes as a type of government that would constitute both forces, that is, the army and police, then civilians. This the bench objected to and students demonstrated. One student died in that.

People say they want back constitutional rule—Acheam-

pong ought to have traded over power to civilian rule this year but he has failed. This also counts as a factor to that demonstration.

Now there is registration of voters for an impending referendum to decide as to whether they like the "union government" or constitutional (civilian) rule. A general election will follow suit if constitutional rule wins the referendum.

I would like to end here with my kindest and warmest revolutionary greetings.

OG
Ghana

WE URGE OUR READERS TO WRITE

From this issue on, we are expanding the space in the *Torch/La Antorcha* devoted to letters from our readers. We want our readers to write to us. Write to us about your political ideas, your struggles, what you like and don't like about the paper. We need you to help us make the *Torch/La Antorcha* a better revolutionary newspaper. We need you to help us build a revolutionary party.

More on Unity

Dear *Torch/La Antorcha*:

Here at the Federal Reformatory in Petersburg, Virginia, is a sleeping giant of revolutionary struggles and, as expressed in the *Torch/La Antorcha* by our comrades in other dungeons, particularly those at Somers State Prison in Connecticut, unity is needed to awaken this monster.

There have been numerous attempts to meet this state of struggles by prisoners here in the Control Complex (Hole). In late July of this year, a hunger strike began in efforts to bring about a Grievance Committee, among other demands by and for the prisoners. Though less than a dozen prisoners participated, we did manage, with outside support, to establish more unity, as was seen in a follow-up strike that went down in September with 45 participants here in the "Hole."

Of course there were reprisals from the "keepers," including physical brutality, use of high pressure fire hoses to spray entire ranges of prison-

ers, as well as isolation and transfers of numerous prisoners. These are some of the ways the oppressor deals with unity among the oppressed because unity is the most efficient weapon and defense of every struggle. Needless to say, I'm in full agreement with comrades who stress or explore this area, as has been done in articles or letters in the *Torch/La Antorcha*.

The oppressors, as was seen in the recent Supreme Court ruling on prisoners unions, fear our uniting. And, as was seen at Somers State Prison when axe handles were used by the oppressors just to combat peaceful unity among prisoners, the oppressors are unable to cope with their fears. But their power in numbers which axe handles can't match, and it's up to all the present active strugglers to explore and obtain solid unity among every one of us in state and federal prisons from coast to coast.

Some prisoners don't realize they are actually struggling in prison, until they are handcuffed in the "Hole," getting maced and beaten or other forms of torture in that extreme, when in reality they are suffering just as much every second of time in prison, be it in the "Hole" or in some Minimum Security camp, 'cause prison is prison. There's no in-betweens about it and the easiest prey for oppression is a pacified individual. So it's important that all comrades in Minimum Security camps support their comrades behind the walls and just as important is comrades behind the walls supporting comrades in Minimum Security prisons.

Revolutionary Love to you all from the dungeons of historic Petersburg.

In Struggle,
Owl

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Unity

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oppressors, as was shown in the recent Supreme Court ruling on prisoners' union, are our uniting. And, as seen at Somers State Prison, when axe handles were used by the oppressors just to break peaceful unity among prisoners, the oppressors are trying to cope with their power. But there's power in the struggle which axe handles can't match, and it's up to all of us to present active struggles and obtain solid support among every one of us in the federal prisons from coast to coast.

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So it's important that we upgrade in Minimum Security Camps support their struggles behind the walls just as important as the struggles behind the walls of the fighting comrades in Minimum Security prisons.

olutionary Love to you from the dungeons of Petersburg.

uggle,

In Detroit, Cynthia Rogers and Deborah Posey, two Black gay women, have been charged with felonious assault for defending themselves against physical attack. (See October 15-November 14, 1977, issue of the "Torch/La Antorcha.") The Revolutionary Socialist League has launched the Gay Rights Defense Committee to build support for these women. Below we are printing an interview with Deborah Posey.

Torch/La Antorcha: What do you think are the basic issues behind the attack on you and Cynthia?

Deborah: This is a case of anti-gays attacking gays.

Torch/La Antorcha: Are attacks like this common? How often are gay friends of yours harassed?

Deborah: Every day. **Torch/La Antorcha:** What forms do these attacks take?

Deborah: All different kinds. Landlord-tenant disputes are common; confrontations with the police; on-the-job harassment. Society in general seems like it's down on gay people.

Torch/La Antorcha: You and Cynthia are fighting back against this harassment. What effect do you think it's going to have?

Deborah: What I basically hope for it to do is to make gay people start fighting back against this kind of stuff. What I hope to accomplish is to bring gays together and make them realize that we can't do it ourselves. It's a whole class of people that's got to get together to fight this kind of thing.

Torch/La Antorcha: A whole class—what do you mean by that?

Deborah: Working-class people, all the people that are oppressed. Because if we're separated, we're just one small group trying to buck the system.

Torch/La Antorcha: What is the reaction of the police and the judge to the fact that you are gay?

Deborah: From the beginning, the way the police handled the situation was what caused it to go as far as it did, because they refused to prosecute a straight person for attacking a gay person. And at the time of our arrest, the verbal harassment that we got from the police officers was just asinine. Asking my aunt, was she funny too? And making the statement that gay people are always causing trouble. And that you shouldn't let people know your business, because then you wouldn't have this kind of trouble. In other words, keep your shit hid in the basement.

Torch/La Antorcha: Did they tell you straight-out that they wouldn't prosecute the other people?

Deborah: Yes. They told me they wouldn't prosecute Sharon Stuggs (the landlady's daughter) because I had no witnesses, when it's their job to find witnesses. They sure found witnesses against us. They found them from somewhere.

Torch/La Antorcha: Why do you feel the police and the court have this attitude?

Deborah: Basically the attitude that I picked up was that, if you choose to be gay, you're supposed to accept all this bullshit. If you're killed, well, it's your fault. You're wrong, you're not supposed to fight back. You are supposed to take it, and go on about your business.

Torch/La Antorcha: Blacks

face similar kinds of harassment in the courts and neighborhoods. Do you get any sense of how much of the harassment and treatment you received from the police and the courts is because you're Black, or because you

community, such as the Metro Gay News and the Detroit Gay Liberation Front, supporting your case? What type of involvement do they have with your case?

Deborah: None. We had gone to a couple of their meetings and had talked about our case. Metro Gay News is set up for upper middle-class white males. They can't even relate to the Black lesbian at all. The Gay Liberation Front's idea was to sit down and elect offi-

have basically what you have in the straight community. You have your class roles. You have a lot of sexism. You've got an awful lot of racism.

Torch/La Antorcha: Do you feel that the oppression of gay workers is more intense than the oppression of, say, the Metro Gay News-type gay store-owners or professionals?

Deborah: Gay people with more money, they can kind of remove themselves from

ture with mother, father, kids, taxes, religion—that's a way of controlling. You're not going to be apt to fight in an issue where you may lose your job if you've got kids, because you've got to support those kids, you've got to pay those taxes, you've got to buy that house, you've got to buy that car. Religion plays a large part in gay oppression. I've heard older people say: "In the Bible it says that gay people, that homosexuals are the downfall of society and that they mark the end of the world." But there's been homosexuality since the beginning of time, and the world is still here. How do you explain that? They use the Bible conveniently; people interpret the Bible so it really fits the class they're working with.

Torch/La Antorcha: The Revolutionary Socialist League feels that the family structure, under capitalist society, is one of the basic roots of the oppression of gays. A main part of the fight to eliminate the oppression of gays would be to change this and make child care, feeding, housing and clothing kids, the responsibility of society as a whole.

Deborah: OK. Gay oppression under capitalism—the threat that the gay household has for society is that it's not producing children, keeping the slave train going. The level the working class is on, we're still slaves, because we just get enough to eat and feed our kids. And if we're not producing those slaves, they're not going to have anybody to work.

Torch/La Antorcha: Do you feel that gays can be open and proud, that gay households can be set up, that a movement could create those conditions without overthrowing capitalism?

Deborah: You know what? No. That would be an example of people living freely; they don't want that. They don't want you to live freely. They want you to live under their laws and their structure. The ridiculous part is that most people really think of gayness as an illness. And if they punish you enough for it, you'll cure yourself, and you won't be gay any more. They really think that!

Torch/La Antorcha: Where this all leads then, in the fight for gay liberation, is that there's two different directions; there's two different types of leadership. One is the reformist leadership that says we can make gains under capitalism, and the other is the revolutionary leadership which says that capitalism must be destroyed, and socialism must be built to free gays and all oppressed people. There's a struggle over which direction it's going to go. That's not only true of the struggle against gay oppression, but of the struggle against Black oppression, and the struggle against workers' oppression in general. So that's why we raise the slogan of gay liberation through socialist revolution.

Deborah: I don't believe that changing any law is going to change the question of gays, because they've got laws on the books now

BLACK LESBIAN SPEAKS OUT



are a woman, or because you are gay? What factors are involved?

Deborah: All those factors. First, when we were arrested, the police came with six police cars, shotguns, 357 mags—and they were pointed directly at Cynthia and me. As soon as they saw a white man come out of the house, all the guns dropped. When we got to the police station, as long as a friend of ours, who was white, was there, they were cool. As soon as he left, they started throwing out all these taunts about women, about gays. It was just a sexist, racist ordeal.

Torch/La Antorcha: Normal, everyday people should not care what a person's skin color is, or what sex they are, or what their sexual preference is. Why do you think this harassment exists?

Deborah: People are programmed from the time of birth. They're not supposed to like this color person, or a person who does this, or people who don't have jobs. They keep us separated. They keep us fighting to stop the unity.

Torch/La Antorcha: What are they afraid of?

Deborah: Just that, unity. If people get together, they're gonna talk, they're gonna realize who the enemy is.

Torch/La Antorcha: Getting back to the defense case itself, is the organized gay

specials. Most of the people around Metro Gay News are closet gays anyway, and their handling of this situation is in the closet. They might throw a dollar in the kitty, but they aren't going to fight the battle for you. And they pat you on the back, and say you're really courageous.

Torch/La Antorcha: What we're trying to build is a defense case in the street. Do you think that they're hostile to the kind of thing that we're doing?

Deborah: They're just totally out of the street, period. These are basically professional people. They can't relate as far as a battle, a real battle; about really putting your foot down and saying: "No, we're not gonna take it." Metro Gay News has a defense fund for a gay guy. And the first thing that they said was: "Well, if he had cooperated with the police and not resisted arrest, he would not be in trouble." You think I want them on my defense committee? No, no, no, no, no!

Torch/La Antorcha: How do working-class gays view these organizations you've been describing?

Deborah: They don't exist! **Torch/La Antorcha:** They are not even aware that they exist?

Deborah: No, they're totally isolated from them. In the gay community, you

the landlord-tenant problem 'cause they can buy their own property. Your working-class gays are not so apt to be afraid of admitting that they are gay. So they have to put up with a lot more stuff from the police, with the landlord-tenant thing, and from just people in general, because they don't have money to isolate themselves from it.

Torch/La Antorcha: How do you see that gays, and especially gay workers, will be freed from this oppression?

Deborah: They want to keep us separate from the other working class, so that we don't want to fight because we know we have a losing battle. It's going to take straight people, gay people, people who are honest about their feelings to stop this. People have been brainwashed against gays to the point where they feel like that is the lowest form of human life. Folks got to be educated and we cannot do it by ourselves. Gay people have been taught to feel isolated from straight people, that no straight people are going to understand them, are really going to be up-front with them. We got to get rid of some of those ideas.

Torch/La Antorcha: To what degree do you see the oppression of gays tied to the family?

Deborah: The family struc-

(Continued on page 16)

BLACK AND WHITE DEFENSE COMMITTEE STOMPS THE NAZIS!

**Power to the
working class,
death to the Nazis!**

CHICAGO, November 14—Blood was running from the heads of the Nazi stormtroopers tonight as they staggered away into the dark. Ten feet away, the supporters of the Black and White Defense Committee stood and chanted on the spot where just minutes before the Nazis had held a picket line to spread their filth. Six members of the National Socialist Party of America had come to Triton College where Simon Weisenthal was speaking. Weisenthal has devoted his life to tracking down World War II Nazi war criminals. The Black and White Defense Committee came to set up a counter demonstration to organize against the Nazis. As the supporters of the BWDC arrived at the hall, they saw the Nazis jump an older man who had been arguing with them. Eight supporters of the BWDC ran at the Nazis using picket signs and bare knuckles against the Nazis' riot clubs. When the fight was over, 3 Nazis were hurt and bleeding. The great Nazi leader, Frank Collin, spent most of the fight lying face down on the cement moaning over his hurt head. As the police helped the limping Nazis retreat, the BWDC regrouped and chanted "Hitler Rose,

Hitler Fell, Racist Nazis Go to Hell" and "Power to the Working Class, Death to the Nazis." One BWDC supporter was hurt, but the night's work was a clear victory.

This fight with the Nazis came on the heels of a Black and White Defense Committee demonstration on October 30. In that action, 50 BWDC supporters marched on the Nazi headquarters and held a rally in front of

the hall. At that rally, Steve Miller of the RSL spoke about the history of the Nazis and how they recruit. "They direct anger away from the real criminals—the capitalists—and towards oppressed people—Blacks, Latins, Asians, gays and Jews. The Nazis say white straight men should have all the jobs. We say jobs for all."

The Nazis can be beaten. The actions of the BWDC show how. □

Ministers Mislead Anti-Nazi Struggle

There are right ways and wrong ways to fight the racist violence going on in Chicago. The Black and White Defense Committee, started by the Revolutionary Socialist League, organizes for self-defense against racist attacks, and for a fight for good housing, education and jobs for all. Self-defense, because the police will never protect working people. Self-defense, because we will make clear that there is a price to pay for racist violence. And we fight for good housing, education and jobs because these are the needs of all workers, Black and white.

The Nazis in the Marquette Park area incite many racist attacks. They recruit whites by blaming Blacks for the problems the capitalist system creates. But if we unite Blacks and whites in a struggle for things we all need, we can undercut the Nazis and

deprive them of followers. These are the goals of the Black and White Defense Committee—self-defense and a common struggle against a common enemy.

Defense guards or pacifism?

The Black and White Defense Committee has escorted children to school, organized marches for jobs and housing, held block rallies and high school student meetings. We are attempting to organize West Englewood community defense groups, and factory defense groups of workers who work in Marquette Park. This is how revolutionaries can organize to smash the Nazis and work for socialist revolution at the same time. We want Blacks and whites to fight the capitalist system—not each other.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Movement, a small group of ministers in Chicago, has another strategy. Their strategy can be summed up in one word—pacifism. The MLK leaders tell Black people: Don't fight back; rely on the police and the capitalist politicians to defend you and other oppressed people from the Nazis. The MLK leaders want to force the police to defend Blacks by organizing non-violent protest marches "protected" by the police.

But the police don't exist to protect the majority of people. They are there to protect the minority, the rich, the capitalists, from the majority, the workers and other oppressed people. Today, for tactical reasons, the police may want to look like they are protecting people. But their job is to protect capitalism, to attack and terrorize the people.

For more than a year, the MLK leaders have sought a permit and police protection for a march to Marquette Park. On October 22, they finally got their wish. A non-violent march of 20 people "protected" by 1,000 cops went to Marquette Park and back. The cops were packed so thick that the marchers were hard to see.

The MLK Movement strategy has accomplished nothing. The daily attacks against Blacks continue—just as before. And just as before, the police either look the other way or join in. Only two days before the MLK march, a cop shot a 14-year-old Black youth in the head, just because he couldn't show any ID. Nothing in Chicago has changed at all.

But the MLK strategy does not



just fail to stop the Nazis. It does downright harm. As a result of the MLK march, the police were made to look good. They were made to look like they were protecting the rights and lives of Chicago's Black residents. The march made the Black community appear to be helpless and totally dependent on phony "police protection." And it built up non-violence and pacifism in the face of a deadly enemy.

The MLK Movement never even suggested self-defense. They put forward no program to unite Black and white workers. The MLK leaders claim they have defused the situation. They say the march "eased tensions." But the MLK Movement hasn't stopped racist attacks or built an organization for defense. Their marches have made things more tense, not less. When you march without any program for the real needs of Black and white workers, then racists have an easy time telling whites that the march is against them.

To top all this off, one MLK leader has attacked the Revolutionary Socialist League. What's he upset about? He's angry because the RSL started the Black and White Defense Committee and led an organizing march through Englewood this October.

Non-violence is suicide

In the past, the RSL has marched with the MLK Movement. We did this because we felt it was necessary to unite with all forces that were opposing the Nazis. Unity is still crucial. But we cannot subordinate the needs of the struggle to a leadership that refuses to go beyond a strategy that spreads illusions about the police and sets people up for attack.

No one should follow the misleaders of the MLK Movement. No good can come of their strategy. Non-violence is suicide. The police are our enemies, not our allies—never rely on them. Join with the Black and White Defense Committee. Our goal is to unite all workers against the capitalists and their tools—the Nazis and the police. We can increase the confidence and ability of all workers to fight by building an organization that stands on its own two feet. Together we can overthrow capitalism and the conditions that breed racism and the Nazis. □



Independence and Socialism for Puerto Rico! Free the Four Nationalists!

October 30—Nearly 1,000 demonstrators picketed in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., demanding freedom for the four Puerto Rican Nationalists imprisoned by the U.S. imperialists. A contingent representing the Revolutionary Socialist League, the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid, and the Bronx Organizing Committee marched in the protest under the banner, "Long Live a Free and Socialist Puerto Rico!"

Although smaller than expected, the militant picket continued the struggle of working and oppressed people in the U.S. for Puerto Rican independence. All workers must fight for the Nationalist prisoners' immediate freedom and unconditional independence for Puerto Rico!

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Thousands in the Streets Against Bakke Decision

Across the country, thousands of Blacks, Latins, Asians and Native Americans are fighting racist attempts to drive them out of universities and professions reserved for "whites only." For oppressed people, this is the meaning of the case of Allan Bakke.

Allan Bakke is a white engineer who was rejected three times from the University of California's Davis Medical School. He claims he is the victim of "reverse discrimination" because of the school's minority group quota system. Out of every 100 new admissions under this system, the school sets aside 16 spots specifically for Black, Latin, Asian and Native American students. Bakke wants to wipe these out.

Bakke's case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. If Bakke wins, this will mean an escalation of the attacks on the partial gains won by oppressed groups through years of struggle in the '50s and '60s.

But oppressed people all over the country are showing that these gains will not be taken back without a battle. Since Bakke won his claim in the California State Supreme Court, broad-based coalitions have sprung up across the country in opposition to the Bakke case. October 8 was declared a "National Day of Protest Against the Bakke Decision." Thou-

sands of Blacks, Latins, Asians, Native Americans and whites turned out in force.

In Washington, D.C., about 1,500 demonstrators demanded the overturning of the Bakke decision. Anti-Bakke forces have jammed the courtrooms since the Supreme Court began its hearings on the case on October 12.

About 3,000 people marched in Oakland on October 8. A handful of Nazis pushing "white power" were routed by the demonstrators.

In Seattle, over 1,000 people marched in one of the largest demonstrations in that city in the past few years.

On October 15, over 2,000 demonstrators turned out in San Francisco. Thousands more have been mobilized in anti-Bakke actions in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Boston, St. Louis and other cities.

Affirmative action programs and quota systems are limited, but real, tools to fight the racist and sexist discrimination which holds down oppressed people at every level of this society. The mass struggles of the '50s and '60s, which fought for an end to all racist and sexist oppression, forced the ruling class to hand out a few token reforms. Through preferential admissions programs and quota



systems, universities, professions and workplaces that had been "for whites only" were now opened up to a handful of Blacks, Latins and other oppressed people. All workers and oppressed people should defend the gains won by the struggles of the past decade.

But just beating back Bakke and his supporters is not enough. Sixteen out of 100 spots won't solve the problems of oppressed people. A militant struggle for all the needs of specially oppressed people must be organized.

But it is not just the specially oppressed who need to struggle. All

working-class people need education, jobs, housing, health care. As part of the struggle to end discrimination against Blacks, Latins, Asians, gays and women, we need a movement that will fight the capitalists to win these things for the entire working class.

This movement must aim at socialist revolution. Until the rule of the rich few—the capitalists—is replaced with the rule of the working class and oppressed people, every partial victory can be taken back by the capitalists. To assure victory, we must seize state power, expropriate the capitalist class, smash the capitalist state and build a socialist society. □

Chicanos March as

Killer Cops Set Free in Houston

Two former Houston policemen got off with suspended sentences last month, after they beat and drowned a young Chicano (Mexican-American) worker.

Joe Campos Torres, 23, was arrested in a barroom fight last May. Six cops beat him to a pulp in a deserted place and then took him to the police station. The sergeant there took one look at him and ordered him taken to a hospital. Instead, the cops took him back to the same deserted spot and beat him some more. Then they threw him, handcuffed, off a 25-foot embankment and left him to drown in the muddy water of the Buffalo Bayou.

There were protests in the community. A rookie cop reported the details of the killing to his superiors. As a result, two of the cops were charged with murder.

For four weeks, an all-white jury heard eyewitnesses describe in detail how the cops beat and kicked Torres, calling him racist names, before they drowned him.

The jury's verdict was "criminally negligent homicide." This is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. The judge suspended the sentences and gave the murderers one year probation and a fine of \$1,000!

Workers in the Chicano community were furious. Hundreds took to the streets in protest marches. Community organizations and left groups joined the demonstrations. Black workers took part. Union locals

passed resolutions condemning the verdict. Busloads of Chicano groups came from other cities to join the marches. As a result of the protests, the U.S. Justice Department decided to indict four of the cops for "civil rights violations."

This is the second time in a year that militant protests by Chicanos forced the federal government to act in cases where Texas courts let off killer cops.

The first case was the murder of Richard Morales, a 26-year-old Chicano. Morales was killed with a shot-

gun two years ago. He was gunned down on a country road near Caeroville, Texas, by Frank Hayes, the local police chief. Hayes's wife and sister-in-law helped him get rid of Morales's body. Hayes was charged with murder, but the jury found him guilty only of assault! The federal government eventually indicted the three murderers because of militant protests by the Chicano community.

Recently, two other Chicanos were killed by the cops. Twelve-year-old Santos Rodriguez of Dallas was shot to death while handcuffed to a police

car. The verdict—murder without malice. Juan Zuniga was killed in a Texas jail by the sheriff and his wife, a deputy. There was no indictment!

In the past two-and-a-half years, 25 murders by Houston police have been investigated by grand juries because of heavy protests. All the victims were Black or Chicano. How many more killings were hushed up? How many cops get away with murder every year all over the country?

In Brooklyn, New York, two Black youths, Randolph Evans and Frank Thompson, were shot to death by cops within the last year. And in June 1975, a young Puerto Rican, Israel Rodriguez, was kicked to death by a pig in the 44th Precinct station in the Bronx. When a worker kills a cop, it's a major crime; but when a cop kills a worker, that's a misdemeanor.

The ruling class needs a police force to control the working class. That force is there to terrorize us so we won't fight back, so we won't rebel. Cops carry guns, and they kill. Most of the time, they get away with it.

The murderers of Richard Morales and Joe Campos Torres may not get away with it, because Chicano workers are fighting back. The whole working class has to fight every case of police brutality, to make sure that no cop gets away with murder!

But fighting police brutality isn't enough. As long as we have capitalism, we'll have the cops on our backs. To get them off our backs, we'll have to get rid of capitalism! □



On May 20, the Chicano community in Houston marched to protest the murder of Joe Campos Torres by racist cops.



Lenard acquitted—continues to fight

On October 22, the state suffered a defeat in the case of Bennie Lenard. In the Maywood District Court, just outside of Chicago, Lenard was acquitted on all but one charge that the state had brought against him. The only charge that the state got anywhere with was Lenard's supposed possession of an open can of beer in his car.

On January 31, Lenard was involved in a minor traffic accident. When the cops came, they attacked Lenard—beating him twice. Because of these beatings, Lenard spent 39 days in the hospital. He lost sight in his right eye. Then, where the cops left off, the courts began. In order to cover up the beating Lenard got from the racist cops, the state charged him with a laundry list of offenses.

What stopped the state from throwing him in prison was Lenard's fellow workers, other working people and left organizations in Chicago. On October 11, 400 people demonstrated outside of the Maywood District Court—demanding that Lenard be freed. One hundred of these people were Lenard's co-workers from United Auto Workers Local 6. It was actions like these that kept the state from going ahead with the railroad.

The cover-up of the racist attack on Lenard still continues. The state is not in any hurry to prosecute their cops. But because of the publicity the case received, the state has been forced to announce that it will "investigate."

Lenard has filed suit against the racists who beat him, since the loss of his sight may cost him his job.

Free Rita Darlene Brown!

On November 6, FBI agents arrested Rita Darlene Brown, who they claim is a member of the George Jackson Brigade. Brown was captured in a parking lot in Seattle, Washington.

The George Jackson Brigade is a group of revolutionaries that has attempted, through terrorist actions, to support the struggles of oppressed people. In May, the GJB claimed responsibility for the bombings of two branches of the Rainier National Bank. In a communique by the GJB, they stated that the bombings were in support of the 14-week prisoners' strike at the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla.

Since that time, the Federal Bureau of Investigation stepped up its search for people that they claim are tied to the GJB. Eighty extra FBI agents were assigned to the Seattle area.

The result of the state's intensified attack is the capture of Rita Darlene Brown. She is now in jail in Tacoma, held on \$100,000 bail.

The capitalists have no right to imprison Rita Brown. They have no right to put her on trial. The real criminals are the capitalists. It is they and their state who created the inhuman conditions at the Washington State Penitentiary.

It is important that all revolutionary organizations and individuals do what they can to defend Rita Darlene Brown from this attack by the state.

State frames Nathaniel Wallace

On October 5, a white employee at Attica State Penitentiary was killed. Nathaniel Wallace, a Black prisoner, is being railroaded for the murder. Unless Wallace gets some support, the state will succeed in convicting him of a crime he didn't commit.

The driving force behind the state's case is racism. As Wallace wrote to the *Torch/La Antorcha*: "As you know, Attica town is all white and most of the employees here are white. The lady I am accused of murdering is white. The court I am going to is all white. And as you can guess I am a Black man."

Wallace's court-appointed defender is also a white racist. The defender has not even tried to talk to prisoners who were around when the woman was murdered. Wallace can't talk to his fellow prisoners because he has been thrown in segregation. This leaves him no defense.

The public defender has made it clear that he doesn't intend to build a case for Wallace. He told Wallace: "You might as well plead guilty."

Nathaniel Wallace needs support. He is currently being transferred to Auburn Prison. People can write to: Nathaniel Wallace, #74A-2727, Auburn Correctional Facility, Auburn, NY 13022.

In brief. . .

On October 25, in a pre-trial hearing in New York, Assata Shakur won a victory. The state dropped charges of murder and robbery against her. The charges stemmed from a 1973 hold-up of a Brooklyn social club. Shakur knew nothing about the robbery. This was another in a series of attempts by the state to railroad her.

The state has tried to frame Shakur six different times. One of these attempts, stemming from a 1973 cop attack on a car Shakur was riding in, has been successful. The state has gone to all this trouble to keep Shakur imprisoned because she is a revolutionary.

Shakur is currently being held in Rikers Island in New York.

Carl Osborne, a prisoner on death row at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville, continues to fight his legal battle for freedom. Osborne was convicted of a murder that he didn't commit.

Recently, Osborne won an extension of his stay of execution. He now has until December 5 to file an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. We urge all brothers and sisters to write letters of support to him. His life is at stake.

Write: Carl Osborne, #142-532, PO Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699.

BATTERED WOMEN FIGHT BACK



The capitalist class always reports about crime in the streets. Every day we read about someone being beaten up or killed, some elderly person being attacked. What we hardly ever hear about are the women who are beaten up and even murdered in their own homes by their husbands or lovers.

There are millions of beaten women. Some experts say only one million, other experts say 25 million, still other experts say one out of every two married women is regularly beaten by her husband or lover.

A woman who is beaten is not just "slapped around a little." She is punched, stomped on, thrown against the wall. She is burned with cigarettes or boiling water. She is carved up with screwdrivers or knives. She is thrown down stairs, dragged around by the hair and gets broken jaws, ribs and noses. She is choked or beaten until she is unconscious and then often revived and choked or beaten again. She is locked into her room naked or driven out of her home in her nightgown. Often she is murdered—and nothing is done.

Capitalists say: women who fight back are murderers

The courts, the police, the law, the press, difficulty in finding a job and low wages on the job—every aspect of the capitalist system works to keep women from fighting back against this abuse.

But when a woman finds the courage to fight back against her attacker, the courts, the police and the law call her a murderer. They try to take her children away and send her to jail for life.

Roxanne Gay fought back. Her husband used to beat her regularly. A neighbor said: "It sounded like he literally bounced her off the wall." One night, after years of beatings, Roxanne Gay slashed her husband's throat. She is now awaiting trial in

New Jersey on murder charges.

Gloria Faye Timmons fought back. She killed her husband while he was attacking her with a screwdriver. She is now serving a 20-year sentence in Washington and has, so far, been denied parole.

Francine Hughes also fought back. Her former husband punched her regularly for 13 years and threw her out of the house in her nightclothes. He threatened to follow her everywhere if she left him. Finally, Francine Hughes took her four children and left. To make sure he couldn't follow her, she burned down her home with him in it.

Hughes was charged with first-degree murder but a Michigan jury just acquitted her by reason of insanity. Even the judge admitted that "self-defense is a real issue." But Hughes must now undergo psychiatric tests and still risks losing her children.

Revolutionaries say: self-defense for women

These women, and thousands of others like them, are not murderers. They defended themselves in the only way possible against brutal, savage husbands. No woman should go to jail for defending herself from attack.

Women have the right to defend themselves from attacks by their husbands or lovers. Women have the right to free themselves from the domestic slavery they face every day of their lives.

End wife-beating! Self-defense for women!



WOMEN



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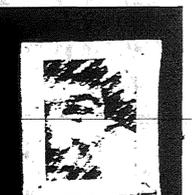
Francine also fought back. Her husband punched her repeatedly and threw her out of her nightclothes. He followed her everywhere in the house. Finally, Francine and her four children and sure he couldn't follow her down her home with

Francine charged with first-degree murder but a Michigan jury found her by reason of insanity. The judge admitted that this is a real issue." But now she undergoes psychiatric treatment. Still risks losing her

Francine says: "I was a woman for women"

Francine, and thousands of other women, are not murderers. They are themselves in the only prison against brutal, savage attacks. A woman should go to prison to defend herself from attack. She has the right to defend herself from attacks by their lovers. Women have to defend themselves from the way they face every day

Francine says: "I was a woman for women"



ANDERSON

Prison Keepers Exile Calvin Arey From Somers

"Inability to satisfactorily adjust to general population." This is the lie given by the administration to explain the September 8 exile of Calvin Arey to Walpole prison in Massachusetts. Previously, Arey was locked

Calvin who has slowly but steadily been peeling away the corrupt protective shield which in all probability may hide illegal kick-backs, especially involving polyurethane mattresses." But more important than his



Aftermath of prison fire at Danbury, partially caused by polyurethane mattresses.

up at Somers prison in Connecticut.

But Calvin stated the truth in a letter to the Torch-La Antorcha: "I had not even been in general population in a year. The real reason for the exile was my politics."

When the exile took place, Calvin was given less than 24 hours' notice. His wife and two children were not notified. He was not allowed to contact anyone about the change. When he arrived at Walpole, most of his belongings were missing, including about 150 books worth almost \$400.

John R. Manson, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections for Connecticut, can transfer prisoners supposedly only if their life is in danger from other prisoners, or if the prisoner can't get medical help at the present institution. Laws specifically state that transfers should not be punitive.

Calvin's life was in no danger. He needed no medical care. But he was involved in some of the key organizing struggles at Somers.

Calvin exposed use of killer mattresses

For example, he has fought to expose the continued use of polyurethane mattresses. These mattresses, which replaced cotton ones in most state institutions close to 20 years ago, have proven to be death traps. They can go up in flames in three minutes, giving off intense heat and cyanide smoke. Over the last few months, nearly 70 people have died in fires fueled by these mattresses in prisons in Tennessee and Canada alone. There is also evidence that some of the deaths in the Danbury prison fire earlier this year were due to fumes from these mattresses.

As a fellow prisoner stated to the Torch-La Antorcha: "Dictators, such as Manson, would spare no expense and would go to any lengths (which I honestly believe would include murder, it has happened, oh, so many times) to silence someone such as

exposé, Calvin was part of an active struggle at Somers. He explained the necessity of organization. He spread political awareness. He showed that the capitalist system is behind every-

one's oppression, whether in or out of prison.

●In September 1976, 175 prisoners, including Calvin, refused to go to their cells after a prisoner was brutally beaten by guards.

●A week later, the guards retaliated with a night raid. Calvin and seven others were sent to segregation. Their offense—they had petitioned for a grievance committee that could confront the administration about things like the beating.

●In March 1977, a three-day hunger strike took place. More than 80 percent of those in segregation, including Calvin, were involved. This protest was against intolerable conditions, guard brutality and the racism found throughout the prison. Though the strikers' demands were not met by the prison keepers, the struggle raised the unity and confidence of the prisoners.

●In April and May 1977, Arey was part of a protest involving more than 40 people. This protest was sparked by guards breathing, coughing and spitting into prisoners' food.

No matter what the keepers say about "inability to adjust," the real reasons for the exile are clear. Calvin got people together. He knew and said why things were rotten. He fought the system. More than almost anything else, the prison managers fear unity of prisoners and people who can bring it about. So Cal was exiled.

But one exile won't break the

struggle. And whether the keepers like it or not, Calvin will keep on fighting:

"As I examine all that has happened to me, it really fades into insignificance in comparison with what is happening to other prisoners, and to the masses of people. After all, what are a few books? We have our tasks to accomplish, we must get on with it. The capitalists are not only stealing our paltry belongings, they are stealing our lives.

"Next time you write to others at Somers, give them my revolutionary greetings. Tell them to keep on struggling. . . . My exile is proof that the puppet prison managers feared us and are now trying to break up the unity we had created. The exile was supposed to frighten the brothers into giving up the struggle. But instead, it should be a lesson to struggle even harder!"

Somers prisoners continue the struggle

Prisoners are learning that lesson. As prisoners from Somers put it:

"I would like you to print a little something in your paper so that Calvin Arey may see it, to show that his brothers down in Somers are still with him in spirit wherever he is. His transfer was unjust, and the rest of us are fighting it. . . ."

"This man was and still is a gallant fighter. His transfer is a terrible blow to us. But on the other hand, it also acted as an impetus for us to continue fighting. If these fools think that we are going to stop, then their minds must truly be in the 18th century. We will simply apply the pressure now more than ever. It is obvious that our brother Arey hit a sore spot and we are going to continue to pound on the sore." □

Struggle at Eastern Prison

On August 8, 1977, the brothers who are in chains at Eastern Correctional Facility rose up against the laws of the ruling class and stood up for their rights as Human Beings. They then took 12 hostages, 11 were prison guards and one civilian, in exchange for four demands:

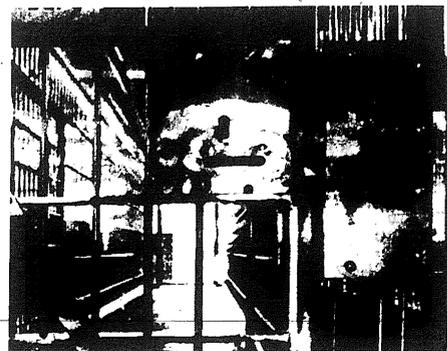
- 1) Good time taken off the front for all New York State prisoners.
- 2) Better food served in all facilities.
- 3) The removal of two KKK officers, Sgt. Bud and Sgt. Nelson.
- 4) Amnesty for all who acted in the rebellion.

The superintendent Jack R. Czarnetzky then agreed on all their terms in writing to the fullest. But when the brothers gave up the 12 hostages, they were then taken to the hole. There they were physically assaulted, and were then transferred to Sing Sing to face charges of possession of deadly weapons, kidnapping, participating in a riot and many more.

The prison superintendent Czarnetzky did not meet with any demands after taking control of the prison. The two officers, Sgt. Bud and Sgt. Nelson, members of the KKK, were back on their jobs on or about September 12, 1977. The prison administration believed that I was the one to have organized the rebellion, but they had no proof to transfer me, so I remained in Eastern. But on August 15, 1977, I wrote a letter to my counselor, Mr. Homels, asking him that I would like to speak with him about a transfer to Green Haven. The week after, I told my counselor that I would stay in Eastern for another year or so and to forget about the transfer at this moment. He then told me that it's a good thing I told him ahead of time, for he did not send the papers to Albany as of yet.

From August 15 on, my job was to bring back the Unity within Eastern. I then became vice-chairman of committee for the Latinos Unidos organization, which had only one member left in the organization. But this did not stop us. What we did was form a new committee, and planned a festival for November 20, 1977, so that the Latin population can gain their Unity through this event, and also to ask for new members to join our organization.

Everything was going fine until the superintendent Czarnetzky found out that I was taking an active part in organizing the prisoners. Knowing that I should send a letter to Mr. Homels to stop the transfer, because I knew



that the superintendent Czarnetzky would use this letter that I sent to Mr. Homels to remove me from Eastern, I did not do this, for I was busy in my studies and organizing the people.

On October 3, I was told to pack up for transfer. I then asked Mr. Homels why I was being transferred, and his reply to me was that he forgot to stop the papers, but he then stated that it was not him who forwarded the papers, that it was Czarnetzky who approved my transfer to Green Haven. On this same day I was locked in my cell until October 4, when a prison guard was sent to bring me to the cage area for transfer. I am now incarcerated at Green Haven.

I would like for our comrades in the struggle to understand that every time we start to organize the prisoners, and when the administration finds out who's doing the organizing, they then find one means or another to transfer us as soon as possible. But we will not give up—we will fight to Unite and organize wherever they send us!

All Power to the Workers and Oppressed People!

Comrade in Struggle,
OP
Green Haven



Guyana: workers take on the government

A major showdown between capitalists and workers is taking place in Guyana. Since August 24, 20,000 sugar-cane workers have been on strike against the government-owned industry. The workers are demanding bonuses worth \$215 million for the years 1974-76. These are bonuses which the government had agreed to pay, but never did. Guyanese sugar-cane workers earn about half the wages of their counterparts in the rest of the Caribbean.

The fake-socialist government of Forbes Burnham has gone all out to smash the strike. It has used the army, the militia, and civil servants to cut the cane. And it has brought armed detachments into the fields to protect the scabs. It has repeatedly seized union shipments of rice destined for the strikers. On October 29, it raided the headquarters of the opposition People's Progressive Party, and seized 75 bags of rice.

The workers have received a lot of solidarity in Guyana, the Caribbean, and beyond. Guyana's transport workers went on strike when they were asked to scab on the cane workers. Trinidad's militant petroleum workers are refusing to load tankers bound for Guyana. British petroleum workers from Tate & Lyle have also boycotted some ships. The Guyanese cane workers have received the support of the Dominica civil service workers. These workers have just ended a long and bitter strike of their own against the government of Patrick John.

Despite the army of scabs, the Burnham government is hurting. More than half of the best harvest period is gone, but the government has reaped only one-fourth of the crop. The strike is developing into a test of strength between the cane workers and the government. Between 1973 and 1976, the cane workers called 426 strikes. The government is trying to break the union and smash this militancy. The Burnham government's policy in this strike is further proof that—under Guyana's "socialist" rhetoric—the same old capitalist exploitation remains.

Strikers shot down in Ecuador

On October 18, police in Ecuador murdered 120 striking sugar-cane workers. Over 4,000 people—including 1,800 sugar workers and their families—had occupied the Azucarera Tropical Americana (Aztra) sugar mill.

Police gave the strikers two minutes to leave the mill—which has one narrow door—then attacked with guns, sabres and tear gas. Several hundred survivors were thrown into jail after the massacre.

The workers were fighting for wage increases which the company had failed to deliver. The company had agreed to raise wages whenever the government raised sugar prices. But after two price hikes the company still refused to increase pay.

The sugar industry has been reeling from falling world prices. The sugar bosses in Ecuador were stealing the workers' wages to keep up their profits.

After the attack, workers at two other mills went out on strike, thus effectively paralyzing Ecuador's sugar industry. The three trade union federations have demanded the release of the imprisoned workers and the punishment of those responsible for the massacre. Students in Quito, Ecuador's capital, and in five other cities marched against the regime and fought with cops in the streets.

The military rulers in Ecuador hoped their brutal attack would crush the growing workers' movement. Instead, it has intensified the workers' resistance.

Rumanian coal miners revolt

News has just reached Western Europe that 35,000 coal miners in Rumania's Juil River basin launched a bitter strike against the government last August. The miners fought bloody clashes with police and army troops sent to crush the strike. They were protesting against food shortages, unpaid overtime work, and a reduction in pension and sickness benefits. This is the largest strike in Rumania since the Stalinists took power in 1948.

When Rumania's Labor Minister and another top Communist Party official tried to talk the miners back to work, the miners captured them and held them hostage in a pit. Party leader Nicolae Ceausescu was forced to personally intervene. Surrounded by armed guards, he promised reforms and warned the miners of a possible Russian invasion.

After the miners agreed to end the strike, their leaders were arrested or beaten, 4,000 miners were fired, and others were transferred. Ceausescu ordered militia units to seal off the Juil basin area and sent police agents to infiltrate the miners. The miners referred to Ceausescu's agents as "party dogs."

The Rumanian regime claims to be a workers' government. But the miners' strike shows that it is a state-capitalist regime which exploits and oppresses the working class. Ceausescu also likes to parade his "independence" from the Russian state capitalists. But when pushed to the wall, he relies on the threat of Russian troops to blackmail the workers into submission.

European youth protest RAF murders

Militant protests raged all over Western Europe after the West German government murdered three Red Army Faction (RAF) leaders at Stammheim prison on October 19. In Stuttgart, 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of the slain RAF members. They chanted slogans and carried banners saying, "Gudrun, Andreas, and Jan—Tortured and Murdered at Stammheim."

Leftists demonstrated in Athens, London, and Vienna. West European youth, in particular, were infuriated by these cold-blooded executions of political prisoners. They took to the streets and attacked West German targets in retaliation. In Italy, more than 800 Rome youths fought with the cops. They were trying to reach the West German embassy and the Lufthansa ticket office. In Turin, Bologna and Leghorn, showrooms displaying West German cars were firebombed. The West German consulate in Genoa was stoned.

In France, empty German tourist buses were firebombed in Paris, Nice and Nancy. The offices of a West German cultural organization were also set aflame.

—TC and PB

Israeli Workers Fight Government Attacks

On October 31, Israeli workers exploded in a series of wildcat strikes and demonstrations against Prime Minister Begin's government. They are fighting against new economic measures which will cut their real income in half.

Workers in Ashdod (Israel's second largest port) shut down docks and factories with a 24-hour wildcat. Strikers shut down industry in Haifa, Holon and other Israeli cities. Dockers, airport workers, railway workers and postal workers have joined in the protests.

On November 3, over 25,000 workers demonstrated in Tel Aviv. Workers carried signs saying: "The government policy steals bread from the mouths of our children."

These actions are the workers' answer to Begin's attacks on their standard of living. On October 30, the government devalued the Israeli currency by 45 percent. This means that workers who had \$2 worth of Israeli money in their pockets on October 30 could buy only \$1 worth of goods with it the next day.

The government also raised the sales tax by 50 percent, and sharply cut down price subsidies on key consumer goods. As a result, the price of bread will go up 13 cents a loaf, the price of a dozen eggs will go up 62 cents, while the price of chicken, the main meat dish in Israel, will go up 25 percent.

The government says that its program will mean only small increases in the rate of inflation, now over 20 percent annually. In fact, the combined effect of the devaluation, the higher taxes and the elimination of government price supports will make prices skyrocket.

Begin threatens the workers

Begin warned against what he called the "Bolshevik-like tones" of the workers. Zionists have always opposed Jewish workers' struggles against capitalist oppression. Begin knows that the demands of the Israeli workers are opposed to the interests of the capitalist ruling class in Israel. But the Israeli ruling class uses Zionism to fool the workers and lead them into a deadly trap.

Over 30 years ago, the Jewish survivors of Hitler's concentration camps poured into Palestine. They came to find security and build new lives for themselves. They also came because the U.S. and other countries

refused to allow the refugees inside their borders.

The Zionists fooled the refugees into believing that their only hope for survival was to steal the land of the Palestinians for themselves. They used religious stories about the "chosen people" and the "promised land" out of Jewish folklore to justify their imperialist landgrab in Palestine.

Zionism chains workers to capitalism

When Israeli workers accepted Zionist leadership, they chained themselves to capitalism and the Zionist military machine. Fully one-third of Israel's production goes to the military. In return, Israeli workers get some of the highest taxes in the world, never-ending inflation, and death in imperialist wars to prevent the Palestinians from regaining their land.

Right now, the road of Zionism has become a road to economic misery. In the future, it may lead to the destruction of the Jewish people in Israel, a bloody repayment for 30 years of Zionist oppression of the Arab peoples in the Middle East.

Capitalist leaders like Begin claim the Zionist state of Israel is needed to guarantee the survival of the Jewish people there. This is a lie. The Zionist state protects only the Israeli capitalists and U.S. imperialism's interests in the Middle East. The only real future for Israeli workers lies in smashing Zionism through socialist revolution.

The real allies of the Israeli workers are the Palestinian workers and peasants fighting against Zionist oppression. But right now the Palestinians have no reason to trust the Israelis. To make an alliance real, the Israeli workers must prove to the Palestinians through their actions that they too are committed to the destruction of the Zionist state.

This means supporting the demands of the Palestinian people for the return of Palestine, the country they lived in for centuries. It means joining with Palestinian workers in Israel to build a revolutionary movement to smash the Zionist state. It means working with Arab workers and peasants in other countries for a socialist revolution which can throw U.S. imperialism and its stooges out of the Middle East and set up a socialist federation of the Middle East. □



Israeli workers in Tel Aviv demonstrate against Zionist government's attack on their living standards.

Fight tacks

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U.S. UP TO OLD TRICKS IN AFRICA

(Continued from page 1)

group. The Black People's Convention, the South African Students' Organization, the Soweto Students Representative Council, and the Black Women's Federation were all outlawed. The government also shut down the largest Black newspaper, the World. It arrested more than 70 leading opponents of the apartheid system, and it banned many others.

On November 10, South African police sealed off the Black township of Atteridgeville-Faulsville. In a six-hour house-to-house search, they arrested 626 Black persons, including 198 youths. The cops said that the raid was "to combat criminal elements." These are the code words that the cops use for militants and revolutionaries. The detained Black youths, for example, have been taking part in a nation-wide school boycott for more than four months.

By its actions, the apartheid government has driven all Black resistance underground. This will strengthen the hand of the Black revolutionaries, who argue correctly that apartheid must be smashed through force of arms. And it will weaken the hand of the so-called moderates. These are people from the Black middle classes who speak of "peaceful change" through "legal means." Instead of stemming the tide of revolt, the government's actions will most likely help to increase the revolutionary wave of struggles now sweeping the country.

U.S. tries fancy footwork

In the wake of these events, U.S. imperialism is doing some fancy footwork to preserve its pro-Black image while it works to sabotage the South African revolution. On November 4, the U.S. backed a binding United Nations arms embargo against South Africa—a proposal which the U.S. had vetoed three times in the last two years. This time around, with U.S. backing, it was passed unanimously

by the UN Security Council. This arms embargo is supposed to hurt South Africa and force it to tone down its oppression of the Black majority.

But the embargo will do nothing of the kind. South Africa produces some 90 percent of its own arms and all its own ammunition. The Western imperialists have had plants making the latest guns, tanks and jet planes in South Africa. These plants will continue to produce.

Moreover, embargoes carried out by the imperialists have always been a farce. The U.S. and Britain supposedly have had an arms embargo of their own against South Africa for the past 14 years. But this hasn't stopped both countries from selling everything from tanks to aircraft to the apartheid regime. This UN embargo won't be any different.

U.S. vetoes trade embargo

Finally, there are any number of governments that can sell Western arms to South Africa. Israel, one of South Africa's closest allies, for example, will certainly continue to do so. The U.S. imperialists and their press all seem to agree that this arms embargo is mainly "symbolic." In plain English, it won't affect the racist regime at all.

What U.S. imperialism is up to in South Africa can be seen from Ambassador Andrew Young's actions in the UN. One week before this arms embargo, Andrew Young vetoed a UN resolution that would have slapped a trade embargo on South Africa.

A real trade embargo right now would devastate the South African economy, which is already in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. White South Africa relies on trade and foreign investment for its economic growth and prosperity. But foreign investment has dropped by half since the Soweto rebellion of 1976. And foreign trade last year ran almost \$2

corporations have billions of dollars invested in the country. Britain's South African investments have reached the astronomical level of \$7 billion. With the world economy already in crisis, any move to isolate South Africa could easily upset the whole imperialist apparatus.

For these reasons, the imperialists would never cut off South Africa from the world economy. Even if the trade embargo had been adopted, it would have been ignored (much like the U.S. ignored the UN trade embargo against Rhodesia for more than a decade).

U.S. not out to end minority rule

Andrew Young gave two main reasons for the U.S. veto of the trade embargo. He claimed that the embargo would stiffen the resistance of South Africa to outside pressure. And he argued that an angry Vorster government would stop helping the imperialists to reach a quiet settlement in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Neither reason cuts much ice with the oppressed Black masses of South Africa. Both of Young's reasons expose what U.S. imperialism—together with its Western allies and the UN—is really up to in South Africa.

Andrew Young's veto is one more proof that the U.S., the European powers and the UN are not really out to end white minority rule in South Africa. The racist South African regime can only be smashed with a violent revolution. The imperialists will do everything in their power to prevent such a revolution, because if apartheid is overthrown they will lose their vast holdings in South Africa. After a revolution, the radicalized Black masses will not sit idly by and allow the imperialists to keep on sucking their blood. At the very least, they will nationalize all industry and drive U.S. corporations out of the country.

More important, the imperialists
(Continued on page 16)



Death to Apartheid! U.S. Out of Africa!

November 5—Chanting "Avenge Biko! Death to Apartheid!," supporters of the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid and the Revolutionary Socialist League marched in downtown Brooklyn. The march was organized to protest the murder of Stephen Biko and the recent crackdown in South Africa. Speakers at a pre-march rally denounced U.S. support for the racist South African government and explained the necessity of building a revolutionary movement here to support the Black workers' revolution in South Africa. The march ended with a spirited picket demanding an end to the sales of the Kruggerand (a South African gold coin) at the Abraham & Strauss department store.



Lenin speaks to revolutionary workers and soldiers. On the right of the stand is Trotsky.

Lessons of the Russian Revolution

On October 25, 1917, the Russian working class, led by the Bolshevik Party, made the first and only socialist revolution the world has seen.

With the support of the peasants, the workers kicked out the capitalist Provisional Government and set up their own rule. Based on the workers' organizations, the new workers' state began the task of building a socialist society, and spreading the revolution to other countries.

The revolution of the Russian working class has been an inspiration to workers everywhere for 60 years. On this anniversary, we talk about some of the lessons that the Russian Revolution has for us today.

The first thing that the Russian Revolution shows is that the workers can take over society and run it in their own name.

Today, most workers don't believe this. From the time you're born, the capitalists drill into your head that socialism is just a dream, a utopia that could never exist.

They say that the workers are too stupid, too uneducated, too lacking in "culture" to run society. The capitalists say that they, because of all the things their money can buy, are the only ones fit to rule.

And through religion and the schools they preach that capitalism is the best and most natural system the workers could hope for.

Middle class wants to rule "for" workers

At the same time, there are a lot of so-called revolutionaries who confuse the workers about socialism. They claim to be for the working class and socialist revolution. But what they really hate about capitalism is that it doesn't work well enough. They think that they, the middle class, have all the skills and education to run society. They want to use the workers as the battering ram to put themselves in power. Then they will rule "for" the workers.

Their vision of socialism has nothing to do with workers' control, workers' rule, and the liberation of the masses. What they believe to be socialism is actually state capitalism.

Many of these phony socialists look to Russia or China or Cuba as socialist countries. And since they don't think that workers' rule has very much to do with socialism, it doesn't bother them that the workers have no rights and no power in these countries.

But the Russian Revolution gives the

lie to the capitalists and the fake socialists. The Revolution shows that, under the right conditions, the workers can come to power. It shows that, based on their own organizations—such as the soviets, the factory committees and the workers' militia—the workers can seize power, smash the capitalist state and establish their own rule.

The second thing the Russian Revolution shows is that for the workers to make a revolution, they need a revolutionary leadership.

The capitalists use all sorts of methods to try to keep the workers from overthrowing capitalism. They divide the workers through racism, sexism, anti-gay prejudice and nationalism. They have an apparatus of repression—the foremen, the cops, the courts, the army—to harass and intimidate people from fighting back, and to try to crush them when they do.

And the capitalists have their agents inside the working class—such as the union bureaucrats—who try to win control of the workers' struggles and channel them in a pro-capitalist, reformist direction.

To defeat all these capitalist roadblocks, the workers need a truly revolutionary party. We need a party that has a program to unite the entire working class, and which takes up the struggle for the needs of the especially oppressed people.

We need a party that can show the workers how to defeat the capitalists' repressive apparatus, including winning over the army. And we need a party that exposes the agents of the capitalists inside the working class.

This party must come from the working class itself. It must be made up of the most advanced workers, the ones willing to devote their whole lives to the overthrow of rotting capitalism.



Leon Trotsky.

It must be a party of disciplined, professional revolutionaries, who can organize, educate and prepare the workers for the socialist revolution.

The Russian workers had this kind of party—the Bolshevik Party built and led by V.I. Lenin. Though they were small for many years, the Bolsheviks were able to lead the working class to the seizure of state power in 1917.

Bolsheviks—party of working class

The Bolsheviks fought for a program to unite the working class. They fought for the interests of the most oppressed. They exposed the fake socialists of every stripe. And they told the truth to the workers, patiently explaining their positions. Because of all these things the Bolsheviks became the party of the working class.

In 1917, as the Russian people were pushed to the wall by the capitalists and their imperialist war, as the fake socialists showed what class they were really with, the workers flocked to the banner of Bolshevism. And in October, the working class, led by the Bolshevik Party and supported by the peasantry and the oppressed nationalities, seized state power and established the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The final lesson of the Russian Revolution is that the working class must take the leadership of all the people oppressed by capitalism. The revolution has to go all the way—not just make a few reforms. And the revolution has to become an international revolution, so the rule of capitalism all over the world can be smashed once and for all.

The Russian Revolution proves all these things.

Before 1917, Russia was a backward country ruled by a semi-feudal, Tsarist autocracy. The Tsarist regime denied almost all democratic rights. It kept the peasantry impoverished and tied to the land. It denied the oppressed nationalities the right to determine their own fate.

At the same time, modern capitalism was developing in Russia, particularly in the cities. Historically, the capitalist class all over the world had promised to get rid of feudal relationships in society. It promised to free the masses of people from feudal oppression.

For example, the French (bourgeois) Revolution promised the people "Lib-

(Continued on page 17)

Forward to an International RML OF JAMAICA HOLDS FOR CONGRESS

Late in October, the Revolutionary Marxist League (RML) held its First Congress in Jamaica, West Indies.

The Congress marked the consolidation of the RML as the nucleus of the revolutionary party in Jamaica. The RML is the only political organization in Jamaica which calls for revolutionary struggle to overthrow Jamaican capitalism. It is the only organization that exposes the capitalist nature of the ruling People's National Party.

It is becoming clearer to more people that the so-called democratic socialism of the PNP regime is an ugly lie. "Democratic socialism" is a cover for the capitalists to attack the working people in order to save capitalism and imperialism in Jamaica. Working people are coming to see that there is little difference between the PNP and its rival, the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP), except rhetoric. A small but growing number of workers are becoming open to the RML's platform of organizing the

only paper which tells them

The Congress set building as the hard core of a revolutionary party as the first period ahead. The Congress that a powerful working-class is beginning to develop in decided that the RML must advantage of this situation organize and train a body of revolutionary workers leaders experienced in the struggle. This includes an effort building the *Forward* as one of the advanced workers, exposing RML's internal education program building and consolidating factory cells.

The RML will increase its presence in the developing movement as a means to further its work. Particularly in areas where the RML has strong organizational groupings, it will engage in fronts with broad layers of workers.



BY THE REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST LEAGUE. KCM, JA

working class and oppressed people for socialist revolution in Jamaica, throughout the Caribbean and the world.

The number of workers who took part in the Congress was a sign of the growth in membership and support that the RML has experienced in the past six months. RML factory groups have been formed in several industries. The RML is also beginning to build links to the countryside, to the agricultural workers, small farmers and bauxite miners. *Forward*, the monthly newspaper of the RML, has built up its influence among the workers as the

other political forces. The fronts will be crucial in fighting immediate aims and creating for the RML to extend its influence and to draw in new

At the same time, the Congress is aware of the danger of too much isolation. Building the united front advance the general movement will be allowed to strip the RML and material it needs to consolidate and strengthen itself. The Congress realized that the RML cannot sink everything into building fronts that could be wrenched from control by left-wing union bu

Forward to an International Revolutionary Party!

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only paper which tells them the truth.

The Congress set building the RML as the hard core of a future revolutionary party as the first priority for the period ahead. The Congress agreed that a powerful working-class upsurge is beginning to develop in Jamaica. It decided that the RML must take advantage of this situation to recruit, organize and train a body of professional revolutionary working-class leaders experienced in the class struggle. This includes an emphasis on building the **Forward** as organizer of the advanced workers, expanding the RML's internal education program, and building and consolidating the RML's factory cells.

The RML will increase its involvement in the developing mass struggle as a means to further its work of party building. Particularly in areas where the RML has strong organized political groupings, it will engage in united fronts with broad layers of workers and

or the Stalinists.

In keeping with its policy of building up the RML, the Congress placed the highest importance on expanding and strengthening the RML's internal machinery. In the first place, it decided to establish a staff of full-time RML political workers. Such a political staff will make it possible to set a division of labor for the organization and to develop the **Forward**, internal education, practical work and all the other sides of the RML's activity in a balanced way. A full-time staff will also allow the RML to build its work in the countryside and other areas where it has been held back from lack of resources.

RML declares for Trotskyism

In perhaps its most important decision, the Congress accepted a declaration placing the RML under the banner of Trotskyism. For some time, the RML has considered itself Leninist and has stood on the program of the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia. During its political development, the RML had arrived at various Trotskyist positions. It rejected the two-stage theory of revolution. It rejected Stalin's theory of "socialism in one country." It recognized the need to build an international revolutionary party to lead the world revolution. The RML also sided with Trotsky in his struggle against Stalin.

But in the past, the RML had hesitated to call itself Trotskyist because of Trotsky's errors. The most important of these were: 1) his opposition to Lenin and the Bolsheviks between 1903 and 1917; and 2) his failure to see that Stalin's forces had restored capitalism in Russia over the corpse of the workers' state in the late 1930s.

The Congress discussions led to agreement that Trotsky's mistakes did not overturn his basic role as the leader of the Leninist struggle for world socialist revolution after Lenin's death in 1924.

Congress condemns fake Trotskyists

The Congress condemned the so-called orthodox Trotskyism of the United Secretariat and other Pablist (that is, left-wing Stalinist) groups. These groups have built their programs on Trotsky's errors. In doing so, they have rejected the revolutionary goal which Trotsky fought and died for. The Congress recognized that Trotskyism today means understanding that the so-called socialist countries, called "deformed and degenerated workers' states" by the phony Trotskyists, are in reality state-capitalist regimes.

Earlier this year, the RML rejected the position it had taken on the Jamaican elections of December 1976. In these elections, the RML called on the workers and small farmers to "Vote PNP with no illusions." After serious discussions, the RML rejected this and decided that the correct position would have been to urge no vote to either capitalist party.

This decision and the Congress declaration on Trotskyism removed the remaining barriers to the RML and the RSL forming a single international tendency. The Congress passed a resolution declaring fraternal relations between the Revolutionary Socialist League (USA) and the Revolutionary

Marxist League (Jamaica). This was seen by comrades of the RML and the RSL as the first step in merging our two organizations into a single international party on a democratic centralist basis.

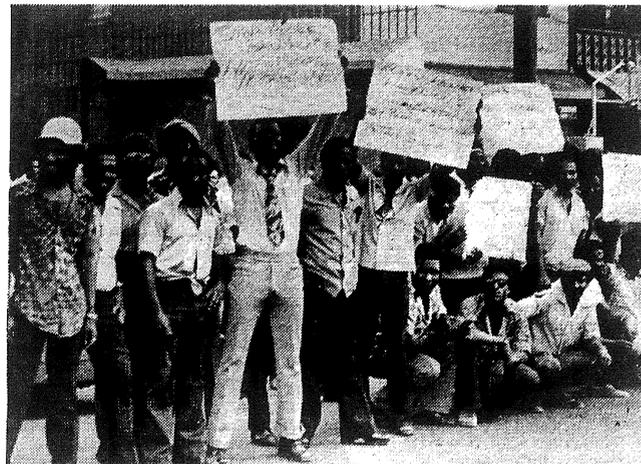
The First Congress was a historic step forward for the working and oppressed masses of Jamaica. It came at a time when the prestige of Prime Minister Manley's PNP regime is on the decline in the eyes of the working class. The PNP left wing and the Stalinist Workers Liberation League are in retreat and confusion in the face of Manley's political swing to the right. The working class is stirring. Even while the Congress was in session, there were signs of a possible strike wave. The RML is building the core of a Leninist party in a situation which could turn into an open struggle for power in relatively few years.

The significance of the Congress and the decision to launch an international revolutionary tendency reaches far beyond Jamaica. Struggle is building in Guyana, Dominica and else-

where in the Caribbean. And it is the same upward trend in South Africa, Europe and other parts of the world.

The underlying foundation of the agreement between the RML/RSL is the recognition of the leading role of the working class in the world revolution—that the emancipation of the working class can only be the act of the workers themselves. This, and the vision of the revolution as establishing a society where the masses rule themselves directly, is what marks off the RML/RSL from every other force claiming to be Marxist in the world today.

The program of the RML/RSL will win support in the world struggles that are breaking out not only because it is necessary. It is the only program that gives the exploited and oppressed of the world something worth fighting for. The workers and oppressed people do not want to trade capitalist masters for state-capitalist masters. They are struggling to end, once and for all, all capitalists, bureaucrats and oppressors of every kind. □



Nov. 1975—Jamaican aluminum workers demonstrate against police brutality outside union headquarters.

Toward Unity of the Working Class

(Continued from page 1)

pressed to victory in a socialist revolution.

The other side to the building of unity is unity in action. We stand firmly on the need for working-class unity in action through establishing united fronts between the various organizations representing the working class. This means that each organization within the united front maintains its political independence and right to put forward its own slogans, demands, literature and criticisms of other members of the united front. At the same time there is united action around specific agreed-upon objectives. The advice Trotsky (leader with Lenin of the 1917 October Russian Revolution—Editor) gave on such united action was "March separately, but strike together! Agree only how to strike, whom to strike and when to strike!" ("Struggle Against Fascism in Germany," Trotsky.) We accept that advice.

The RML's approach to unity is, therefore, ideological struggle and debate together with unity in action. This conception is, however, disliked by militants from at least one other left organization. An article in the last issue of "Forward" made particularly sharp criticisms of the reformist politics of the WLL (Workers Liberation League—Stalinist organization in Jamaica) and the liberal capitalist policies of the PNP (People's National Party—liberal capitalist party which claims to be for "democratic socialism"). As a result one WLL militant attempted to loudmouth and harass two RML supporters at the recent PNPYO (People's National Party Youth Organization—youth organization of the PNP) conference at the Arana. We have since written to the WLL about this issue seeking some clarification of that organization's position on that incident and other questions raised in this statement. To date we have received no reply. We regard this as a sign of that organization's lack of interest in genuine workers' unity.

We remain committed to the exposure of reformist politics and misleadership within the working-class movement as part of the struggle for real workers' unity.

It is our bounden duty in the fight to build an international revolutionary Marxist leadership.

FOR PRINCIPLED LENINIST UNITY AMONG REVOLUTIONARIES!
FOR PRINCIPLED STRUGGLE WITHIN THE LEFT!

—Executive Committee,
Revolutionary Marxist League



BY THE REVOLUTIONARY
MARXIST LEAGUE. KCM, JA.

working class and oppressed people for socialist revolution in Jamaica, throughout the Caribbean and the world.

The number of workers who took part in the Congress was a sign of the growth in membership and support that the RML has experienced in the past six months. RML factory groups have been formed in several industries. The RML is also beginning to build links to the countryside, to the agricultural workers, small farmers and bauxite miners. **Forward**, the monthly newspaper of the RML, has built up its influence among the workers as the

other political forces. These united fronts will be crucial in fighting for immediate aims and creating openings for the RML to extend its political influence and to draw in new recruits.

At the same time, the Congress was aware of the danger of too broad an approach. Building the united fronts to advance the general movement cannot be allowed to strip the RML of cadre and material it needs to consolidate and strengthen itself. The Congress realized that the RML cannot afford to sink everything into building a movement that could be wrenched out of its control by left-wing union bureaucrats

Machinists Strike at Boeing

In Seattle, Washington, 17,000 Boeing workers are on strike. The strikers are members of Local 751, International Association of Machinists (IAM). Their walk-out is now in its second month. The Boeing bosses refuse to make any concessions.

The striking machinists are demanding a 10 percent wage hike, improved pension and health benefits, protection against layoffs, and a union shop. Although IAM members are only about one-third of the workforce at Boeing, they are standing fast against company attempts to break the strike.

On October 18, the company sent a letter to all strikers threatening to cut off medical benefits on November 1. When this scheme didn't work, the

company tried to turn Seattle area workers against the "greedy" strikers. The bosses claimed that they were offering the strikers a \$1.19 raise. The truth is that \$1.14 of this sum is cost-of-living money built up under the old contract. The bosses are really offering 5 cents new money, even though Boeing is making record profits.

From the beginning, the union leadership has refused to wage a serious strike. During the first weeks of the walk-out, the union leaders limited the number of pickets to two per gate. Supposedly, this was to avoid a court injunction against picketing. In fact, the union hacks were doing the bosses' dirty work for them.

Worse yet, the union leaders did not ask the other unions at Boeing to support the strike. In the past, members of the four unions have not honored each others' picket lines. No attempt was made to stop this scabbing.

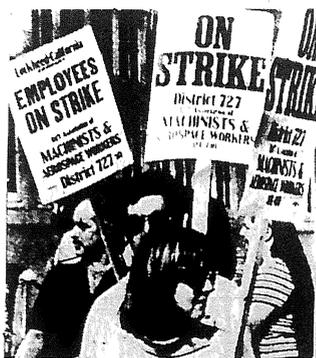
Militant machinists must organize themselves to fight for a decent settlement. First of all, this means convincing members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Teamsters, and the Seattle Professional Engineers Employee Association (SPEEA) to join the picket lines. SPEEA has already contributed several thousand dollars to the strikers. All unionists at Boeing must be won to actively supporting the strike.

With these additional forces, mass pickets prepared to defend themselves can be built at every plant.

Militant mass pickets are a convincing argument for non-union workers to join the fight. Many non-union workers have already refused to cross the picket lines. Some have asked to join the union. Aggressively organizing these workers is a key part of building the strike and winning a

union shop.

Lastly, strikers at Boeing must unite their struggle with other aerospace workers now on strike. Fifteen thousand IAM members are on strike against Lockheed in California. Four thousand more machinists are striking another Boeing plant. A united strike force could force the bosses to back down and meet the workers' demands. □



Strikers picket Lockheed at Burbank, California.

PO Militants Fight Election Fraud

Last month we had elections for two shop stewards here at Cathedral Post Office. One of the candidates was a supporter of the Postal Action Committee. He presented an alternative of organizing and fighting the passive policies of the present stewards. And he came in third out of six candidates in an election which was run very irregularly.

He protested the election, and 58 percent of us signed a petition which demanded a new election to be run correctly. This followed the rules in petitioning for a new election. However, a majority of the election committee and the union leadership pulled out all stops to derail a new election.

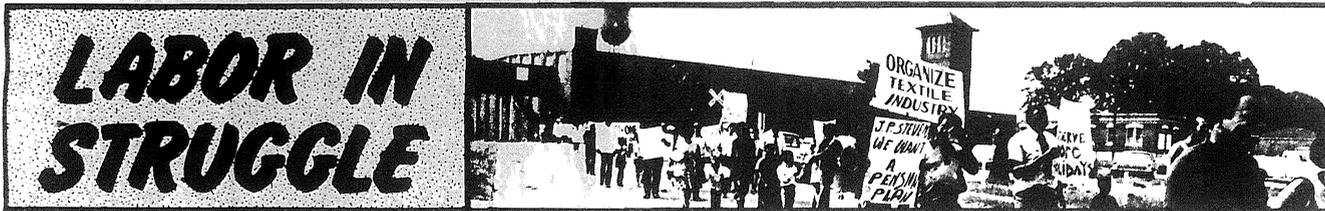
We must ask why they did this to a perfectly reasonable request by a majority of us here.

We think they did this because they represent a group of people who see the union either as a social club or as a place for running rackets rather than as a fighting organization. They do not want to risk throwing out the passive stewards because to do so means risking their privileges to "have a good time" or to leech off the community and other workers.

These privileges are part of a whole package which the bosses give to a few workers in exchange for their support in dividing us and preventing us from organizing and fighting back. And the bosses can give out these privileges because they use these divisions to rip off extra large amounts of work and money from minorities and other oppressed workers. The bosses also buy off people like this with loot from all over the world, from Chile to Thailand.

When we fight back we must recognize people like this for what they are—an aristocracy in our midst. And as with all aristocracy and privilege, we must unite with all workers who are screwed by them and work together to sweep these people away.

8 Workers at Cathedral Station



Iron ore strike continues

November 7—Over 18,000 iron ore workers in northern Minnesota and Michigan are continuing their 98-day-old strike. Local USWA leaders rejected the latest owners' offer, which included a 20-30 cent per hour pay cut for nearly 25 percent of the strikers.

The offer did include 40 cents per hour incentive pay for over 13,000 workers. This is a partial victory for the strikers. Since the beginning of the strike, the bosses have refused to negotiate incentive pay. They claim that incentive pay is a national issue and not negotiable under the ENA (Experimental Negotiating Agreement) provision limiting strikes to local issues. The determination of the striking workers, dwindling ore stockpiles and the approach of winter, which will stop ore shipments, forced the bosses to back down.

The strike may still continue into the winter. This will mean ore shortages in the steel industry. The strikers have mounted a serious challenge to the sellout ENA, and they need support. Steelworkers in several Chicago locals have passed motions defending the strike and sending funds to the striking locals.

Send donations and support messages to: USWA, District 33 Strike and Defense Fund, 334 West Superior, Duluth, MN 55802.

Defend the Trenton Seven

DETROIT—On October 6, seven members of UAW Local 372 were convicted on contempt of court charges. These autoworkers, known as the Trenton Seven, now face six months in jail and large fines. The conviction is a serious attack on autoworkers' right to strike.

The charges against the Seven resulted from a week-long wildcat at the Trenton Engine plant this past summer. Workers struck to protest the firings from an earlier heat walk-out. Chrysler bosses tried to break the strike with a court order to stop the picketing at the plant. But the strikers ignored the

order. Now, the courts have victimized the Trenton Seven as an example to UAW militants across the country.

The Trenton case proves that workers can expect no justice from the capitalist courts. The Trenton Seven were denied a jury trial. The bosses' courts knew no jury in Detroit would convict these autoworkers. The case was given to a judge who used to work for Chrysler as a lawyer. And—surprise!—he found them guilty.

The Trenton Seven must be defended. The summer heat walk-outs were important steps in fighting the inhuman working conditions in the auto plants. As part of this struggle, autoworkers must demand that the charges against the Seven be dropped and that they be reinstated immediately with full back pay.

British miners set to strike

British miners are demanding a 90 percent pay increase, immediately. The Labor government claims that the miners are not due for a raise until March, and then only 10 percent. Both sides are preparing for a major showdown.

In the winter of 1973-74, the National Union of Miners (NUM) won a head-on confrontation with the Tory government over wage controls and speedup. The Tory government was then defeated by the Labor Party in a general election.

Now, the Labor Party government is pushing the same kinds of wage controls and speedup. Miners recently rejected a government-offered productivity scheme. The scheme would have meant a return to piecework—one of the most brutal forms of capitalist wage-slavery.

The British miners are not fighting alone. British workers in many industries are tired of seeing their wages eaten up by the 17.6 percent annual inflation rate. A strike by the NUM could win real gains for the miners and back the government down. And it could lead the way for the other major unions to break the anti-working class wage controls.

Chavez supports Marcos

Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farmworkers Union (UFW), supports the bloody Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines. Last summer, Chavez accepted an invitation from Ferdinand Marcos to visit the Philippines. He returned to the U.S. with glowing reports about how much "progress" the Filipino people are making under the martial law of Marcos. Chavez then allowed a Marcos representative—Labor Secretary Blas Ople—to speak at the UFW convention last August. This same labor secretary has repressed the trade unions and outlawed strikes in the Philippines.

Chavez hoped his support for Marcos would bring more Filipino farmworkers in the U.S. into the UFW. He was wrong. Thousands of Filipinos work the fields of California, but only a handful are in the UFW. The most militant Filipino workers hate the Marcos dictatorship, and they hate Chavez for supporting it. Filipino farmworkers aren't joining the UFW, and some who have been union members are now leaving in disgust.

Phillip Vera Cruz, a Filipino farmworker and vice-president of the UFW, quit the union after his August convention. In an interview after his resignation, Vera Cruz said he was "disappointed with one-man rule, kind of a dictatorship, by Cesar Chavez." Vera Cruz also stated that Chavez' support for Marcos "violated a principle of the union, that is, the regard for human rights."

All of this is helping to tear apart Chavez' image as a democratic and progressive leader of the workers. He is proving to be an anti-democratic union bureaucrat, not much different from the rest. But militant farmworkers should not turn their backs on the UFW just because of Chavez. They should stay in the union and work to organize more farmworkers. Farmworkers of all races and nationalities must unite their forces to dump Chavez and replace him with a revolutionary leadership truly committed to fighting for the needs of farmworkers and the entire working class.

—PA and BA

MINIMUM WAGE BILL: CRUMBS FOR THE WORKERS

A new bill passed by Congress will raise the minimum wage, but it won't raise it much. The current minimum is \$2.30 an hour. It will increase to \$2.65 an hour on January 1, then to \$2.90 in January 1979, \$3.10 in 1980 and \$3.35 in 1981.

An amendment to establish an even lower minimum wage for youth was defeated by only one vote in the House of Representatives. But it could very well pass in the next session of Congress.

Even without the youth sub-minimum, the whole minimum wage bill is an attack on the working class. Carter talks a lot of bull about eliminating poverty and raising living standards. But the increases won't even keep up with inflation. Living standards will sink further for the poorest sections of the working class.

WORKERS LOSE

When the Carter gang gives up a little bit with one hand, they take away more with the other—fewer workers than ever will be covered by the new law. The bill increases the number of small businesses that don't have to pay any minimum wage. The cur-

rent law exempts firms whose annual gross sales total less than \$250,000. Under the new law, that figure will go up to \$362,500 per year on December 31, 1981, and it will continue to go up every time the minimum wage goes up.

Millions of workers will lose what little wage protection they have. In areas where no state minimum wage laws exist, more and more small firms—sweatshops and stores that employ mostly women, youth and minority workers—will get away with paying them pennies per hour.

George Meany and the other union bigwigs say they don't like the bill. They are making a lot of noise about defeating the "enemies of labor" in the next election. They don't say a word about organizing the most oppressed workers to fight for decent wages. They say nothing about strikes to win higher pay. They want the working class to look to the politicians for help.

But all capitalist politicians are "enemies of labor." We can't look to them for help because they serve the ruling class. If we want higher wages, we will have to organize ourselves and fight to win them. □



Striking miners battle cops at Blue Diamond mine, Stearns, Kentucky.

Stearns Strikers Fight Cops: The Struggle Continues

On October 17, 150 Stearns strikers and their supporters battled the police to stop the Blue Diamond Coal Company from bringing scabs into the struck mine. The Stearns, Kentucky, miners have been striking for over 15 months to win a UMW contract and the right to a union safety committee with the power to shut down the mine. This was the first time the Blue Diamond bosses tried to bring in scabs.

The strikers overturned a pick-up truck to block the entrance to the mine and then beat back the first charge by nearly 100 Kentucky state police in full riot gear. The cops regrouped, tended to their injured and attacked again. They arrested over 100 workers. The Stearns Women's Club was out in force to fight the cops and the scabs—39 of the women were arrested along with 68 strikers.

The cops seriously injured 15 of the strikers. One state trooper crushed the arm of picket captain Mayhan Van-over, who was protecting his head from a nightstick assault. Another striker, Arnold Keith, ended up with a fractured skull. Most of the miners got hurt after they had been handcuffed and had no way to fight back. One young woman, the wife of a miner, said she hated for her children to see the violence, but "at least they grow up to know a pig's a pig."

Judge J.B. Johnson had earlier issued an injunction limiting the number of pickets to six. Those arrested were charged with violating this court order. On October 26, Johnson—the coal companies' judge—sentenced 11 of the most militant strikers to six months in jail. They were sent straight to jail with no chance for bail or bond. The rest of the arrested strikers got suspended sentences and the 39 women go on trial later in November.

For over a year now, the Stearns strikers and their supporters have been fighting a war in McCreary County, Kentucky. The company guards have tried to shoot down the strikers, but the miners have returned the fire. Since last January, one miner and seven guards have been injured by gunfire.

MINERS WIN PARTIAL VICTORY

Blue Diamond hasn't tried to move in any scabs since October 17, so the miners won an immediate victory. But the Blue Diamond bosses still refuse to negotiate with the strikers. The coal bosses, along with the judges and politicians they own, know that a victory at Stearns could lead to a UMW organizing drive throughout the state of Kentucky.

The Stearns strikers need more support than they've been getting in order to win. If thousands of UMW members from all over the Appalachian coal fields came into Stearns for a mass picket line, they could make sure there would not be any scabbing. And if the UMW would call a nationwide solidarity strike, like they did to win at the Brookside mine in 1974, then they could force Blue Diamond to negotiate. This is what it will take to organize at Stearns. □

VICTORY TO THE MINERS!

NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 14, 1977/TORCH/PAGE 13

Showdown Looms in Coal

Nearly 170,000 coal miners face one of the toughest battles in the history of the United Mine Workers union (UMW), when their contract expires on December 6. Negotiations are going nowhere, and a strike seems certain.

The contract fight will be a crucial campaign in a war that has been raging in the coal fields for many years. Since the early 1970s, coal miners have launched dozens of wildcat strikes over unsafe conditions, work assignments, court interference in their struggles and other issues. Last summer, the coal bosses cut back miners' health benefits and forced the closing of many miners' health clinics. They also threatened to cut the pensions covering retired and disabled miners. Rank and file coal miners responded to this attack with a wildcat strike. The strike lasted from July into September and involved nearly 100,000 miners at its height.

Even this militant struggle was not enough to win. Arnold Miller, UMW president, and the other top UMW bureaucrats opposed the strike and actively tried to break it. The miners did not have the level of rank and file organization necessary to spread the strike nation-wide and maintain it in the face of Miller's sabotage. They were finally forced to return to work with the health cutbacks still in force.

In the current contract negotiations, the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) is refusing to even discuss the health cuts. Instead, the coal bosses are demanding that the UMW leaders agree to a plan for ending the wildcat strikes in

the coal fields. To try to do this, the BCOA is proposing to cut the wages of any miner involved in a wildcat by 40 percent and to take away the right of UMW safety committees to close down unsafe mines.

The coal capitalists want a free hand to increase coal pro-

duction and boost their profits without worrying about safety conditions or wildcat strikes. The entire ruling class wants to beat back the developing miners' movement. They want a docile and defeated workforce to exploit in the coal fields. The militant struggles of rank and file coal miners stand in the way of the capitalists' plans.



Wildcatting coal miners march on Washington to protest cuts in health and retirement benefits.

duction and boost their profits without worrying about safety conditions or wildcat strikes. The entire ruling class wants to beat back the developing miners' movement. They want a docile and defeated workforce to exploit in the coal fields. The militant struggles of rank and file coal miners stand in the way of the capitalists' plans.

BCOA chief Joseph Brennan has already threatened that the UMW faces "extinction" if the rulers don't get what they want. Today, the UMW contract covers only about 50 percent of the coal mined in the U.S. This is

down from nearly 75 percent a few years ago. If the miners lose in this contract, then the UMW will decline even more rapidly in the next period. The very existence of the union is threatened.

The BCOA's immediate strategy is not to destroy the UMW, but to yank out all of

control. Second, and most important, Miller is committed to protecting the private property of the coal companies and capitalism as a whole. He is deathly afraid of any independent mobilization of the miners. His only alternative is to go along with some parts of the BCOA plan for smashing the power of the miners in the coal fields.

Rank and file miners have to organize to build the struggle on their own. They have to prepare for a national strike. They must be ready to continue their strike when Miller makes his deal and tries to ram it down their throats. And they must be ready to strike until they win a contract which restores their health benefits, ensures the local right to strike and defends the power of the UMW in the mines.

The entire working class must be prepared to support the miners in their struggle. The capitalists want to cut the heart out of the UMW, one of the most militant and powerful unions in the country. If the rulers can defeat the miners in this contract, then they will be encouraged to step up their attacks on the rest of the workers.

The future of the UMW is in the hands of the working miners. The most militant miners must take the lead in building the contract struggle, but they have to do more than this. They have to organize their forces into a movement which can dump Miller and take full control of the UMW. All workers must stand together to support the miners in every way we can.

its teeth. They want to convince the UMW leadership to help them stop the wildcats, discipline the miners and break their spirit. If this works, then the coal bosses may be willing to make some concessions on the health benefits and refrain, for now, from trying to bust the union.

Miller has pledged to win a contract which both restores the health benefits and recognizes the local right to strike. This is nothing but talk. In fact, Miller is ready to deal with the BCOA. First, he is looking for a way to break up the rank and file opposition and get the union under his

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-PA and BA

EDITORIALS

Major U.S. corporations are stepping up their demands for protection against foreign competition. Led by the steel bosses, capitalists in the auto, textiles, and electronics industries are pressuring the government to limit the importation of goods produced in foreign countries.

The bosses claim that protectionism will strengthen U.S. industry. They claim that U.S. industry is being destroyed by foreign capitalists who are selling their products below what it costs them to produce them. These "unfair" practices supposedly make it impossible for the U.S. industries to compete. If foreign imports are limited, they say, the market for U.S. goods will be larger, industry will recover, and jobs will be saved.

Unfortunately, many workers have fallen for these lies. Faced with plant closings and mounting layoffs, many workers are being tricked into supporting the bosses' protectionist drive in the hope of protecting their jobs. But, workers have nothing to gain and much to lose in supporting the push for protectionist policies.

PROBLEM IS ROTTING CAPITALISM

The problem with U.S. industry is not "unfair" foreign competition. The crisis in U.S. industry is part of a growing crisis of the world capitalist system. The post-World War II economic boom is over. World capitalism is falling apart and is heading for an international depression. As this crisis approaches, economic relations between the imperialist countries are breaking down. Trade agreements based on the dominance of U.S. capitalism are being replaced by cut-throat competition. This is what is really behind the current drive for protection against foreign imports.

To see why this is true, look at what protectionism is. Protectionism means that the government limits the amount of foreign-produced goods allowed to enter the country. Imports are limited directly through the use of quotas or indirectly through tariffs (which are taxes paid on goods when they enter the country).

In both cases, the U.S. bosses are trying to increase their share of the market. By eliminating the threat of being undersold by foreign competition, the bosses can then raise their prices without the danger of losing business. The higher prices mean that the bosses get more profits—temporarily.

U.S. BOSSES TO BLAME

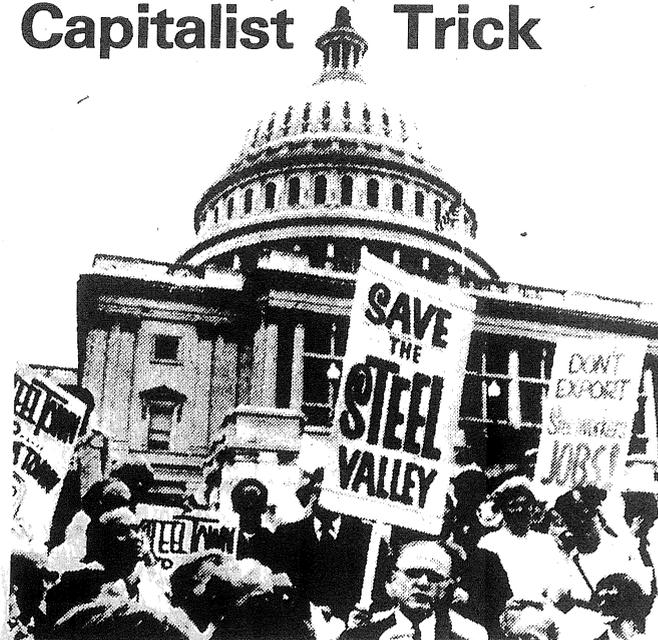
Using steel as an example, it is clear that the U.S. capitalists and the capitalist system are to blame for the decline of U.S. industry. The U.S. steel industry is older and less productive than the European or Japanese steel industry. Many of the steel mills now in use were built at the end of the last century. Investments in new plants and machinery are less than half of what they were in 1967, even though the cost of replacing worn-out machinery has doubled.

In the past, the steel bosses invested their profits into areas where they could get the highest returns. Instead of modernizing their mills, the steel companies relied on higher prices and the general strength of U.S. imperialism to maintain their profits. Steel prices jumped 250 percent over the last 10 years, but little of this money was used to modernize the steel industry.

On the other hand, the European and Japanese steel bosses rebuilt their industry from the ground up after World War II. They installed the latest machinery and production processes. As a result, the U.S. steel industry today is 20 percent less productive than the German or Japanese steel companies. And foreign steel imports make up almost 20 percent of the U.S. steel market.

On top of this, the world economy is

Protectionism: Capitalist Trick



Steelworkers protest plant closings and layoffs. Many steelworkers have fallen for the lie that foreign workers are stealing their jobs.

stagnating. As a result, world-wide demand for steel is very low, since capitalists around the world are refusing to invest in new plants and equipment. The result is to increase the competition among the steel companies throughout the world.

To try to save themselves, the U.S. capitalists are turning to protectionism. Instead of investing in new plants and machinery, they want to cut back foreign competition and drive down the living standards of the working class.

PROTECTIONISM NO SOLUTION

But protectionism will not save U.S. industry. Trying to carve up a shrinking market without a total modernization of the industry will only make things worse. The most protectionism can do is appear to shore up U.S. industry, while it sets the stage for a bigger collapse in the future.

To convince U.S. workers to support protectionism, the bosses claim that it will create more jobs. They are trying to scare U.S. workers into believing that foreign workers are stealing their jobs. The U.S. capitalists claim that if they are able to sell more goods, they will have to hire more workers to produce these goods. Jobs supposedly being "stolen" by foreign workers will be given to U.S. workers, or so they say.

This too is a lie. Protectionism will not mean more jobs for U.S. workers. In fact, more workers will be laid off. The capitalists have no intention of building new plants. They know that the only way they can raise productivity and profits without new investments is to get more work out of fewer workers. They want to speed up production and lengthen hours. The results will be worsening working conditions, more accidents, weaker unions and more layoffs.

From 1956 to 1974, steel production increased by 33 percent, but the number of steelworkers decreased by over 100,000. The steel companies want to continue this trend and step it up. Protectionism won't save jobs. It is a key part of the steel capitalists' strategy to eliminate jobs.

Protectionism and the racist scare campaign against foreign workers are designed to help the U.S. capitalists

step up their attacks on U.S. workers. The last thing the capitalists want is unity between workers in the U.S. and workers in other countries. To prevent this unity from developing, the capitalists want to convince the workers in one country that the workers in other countries are their enemies.

If workers believe that their enemy is foreign competition and foreign workers, and not their own bosses, they will not be able to organize an effective fight against the plant closings, layoffs and speedup. Instead, they will accept cutback after cutback in order not to "play into the hands of the 'foreigners.'" Instead of uniting to fight the capitalists throughout the world, for jobs, decent working conditions and other things we need, the workers in each country will end up allying with "their" capitalists against their brothers and sisters throughout the world. This will give the capitalists a free hand to attack the workers here and when they want.

But protectionism will mean a lot more than all this. When the U.S. government raises tariffs and quotas on foreign imports, other countries will raise their own barriers. This will mean a trade war, and a disastrous decline in world trade.

Given the rotten state of the world economy, a trade war will plunge the whole world into a new depression. The world economy will collapse and millions of workers will be thrown into the streets. The last world depression occurred in the 1930s and ended in World War II. Millions of working-class men and women were killed while the bosses made huge war profits. This is what the bosses have in store for the workers unless we organize and fight back.

What choice do workers have? On the one hand, we can side with the bosses. We can stab our fellow workers in the back in the hope of getting one of the jobs promised by the capitalists. And we can sit by and watch the capitalists destroy the whole world.

On the other hand, we can realize that the entire capitalist system is stacked against us. We can unite with the workers in other countries against our common enemy, the capitalist class. And we can fight to overthrow capitalism and build a socialist society.

WORKERS CHOICE: SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

For the working class, there is really only one choice. Capitalism is falling apart. Unless we overthrow it, it will drag us all down with it. By fighting among ourselves, we only help the bosses to keep us all down. The only real alternative to capitalist decay and destruction is the international socialist revolution.

Once in power, the working class and its allies will have no trouble using the full potential of capitalist industry. Under the democratic control of the working class, steel, for example, would be produced in massive amounts to build schools, hospitals, housing and public transportation. Cities would be rebuilt according to the needs of the working class. This is doubly true for meeting the needs of the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, countries which have been plundered for years by imperialism.

All these tasks would create meaningful jobs at decent wages for millions of workers in the U.S. and around the world. This is the working-class solution to the fight for jobs and a decent life.

The bosses tell us that socialism is pie-in-the-sky. They want us to believe that we can't expect any more than a few stinking hand-outs. The bosses say that protectionism will mean a few more hand-outs. This is a lie. We, the workers of all countries and races, must stand united in the fight for revolutionary socialism—for an international socialist society which will mean jobs, peace, prosperity—freedom and a real life for the workers and oppressed people throughout the world.

—Paul Aldridge

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Stephen Biko's widow and friends before funeral of slain Black leader. Clenched fists show defiance of apartheid regime.

Africa . . .

(Continued from page 9)

fear that the Black working class of South Africa could seize the leadership of this revolution, overthrow capitalism altogether and set up a workers' government. If that were to happen, the workers' state would seek to spread the revolution to the rest of Africa (most of which is Black-ruled, but still controlled and exploited by world imperialism).

To try to stop this, U.S. imperialism—along with its friends in the UN—wants to do two things. It wants to fool the Black masses in South Africa and around the world into believing that the U.S. is on their side. And it wants to put pressure on South African strongman Vorster in the hope that he will make some token reforms of the system—reforms

which the U.S. can advertise as proof of "progress towards majority rule."

The U.S. knows that Vorster and his clique have no intention of giving up white minority control of South Africa. So it is pushing him to throw the Black workers a few crumbs, to clean up the apartheid image a bit and to prevent an explosion.

But the Black workers of South Africa will have the final word in this charade. The only way they can gain their freedom is to organize a revolution to smash apartheid. To do this, the Black workers must organize a revolutionary socialist party based on the program of Marxism, Leninism and Trotskyism. Such a party can seize the leadership of the struggle from the Black middle classes and move it towards socialist revolution. Only a genuine socialist revolution will put the oppressed Black workers in power and drive U.S. imperialism out of South Africa for good. □

BLACK LESBIAN SPEAKS OUT

(Continued from page 3)

that say people have the right to defend themselves. If somebody attacks you, you are supposed to be able to protect yourself. But I did it, and I went to jail, not because I'm just Jane Doe walking down the street, but because I'm Black and I'm a gay, that's right, and a woman. They can pass laws and it won't change people's train of thought. If you change the structure in the society that's got people thinking this way, then you've got a chance, but other than that you don't have a chance.

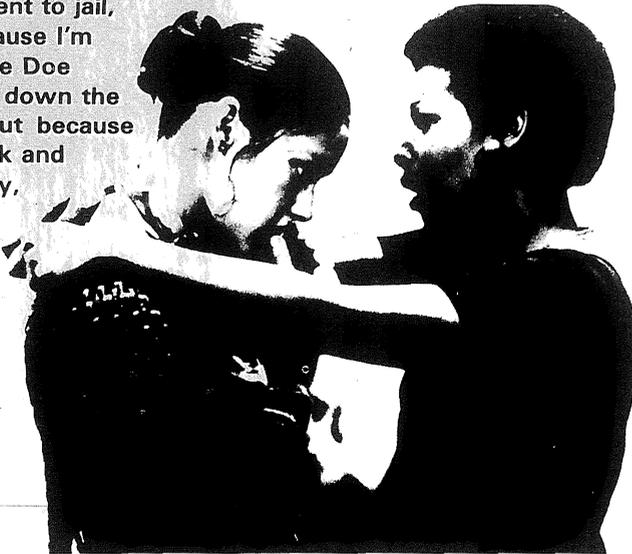
Torch/La Antorcha: How do you see the relation between your defense case and the Gay Rights Defense Committee in building this movement for social struggle?

Deborah: The case will bring people into being more interested and to realizing that you can fight. There's a lot of gays that are going to jail every day for nothing, just because they are gay. They've been brainwashed into thinking: Well, pay your fine, and go on out of jail till the next time. This is showing them that I want to fight. And if I fight, maybe they'll start to fight. Maybe they'll come around to learning, to reading, to find out just who the enemy is and eliminate this wall that's been built between straight and gay. We have to tear that down first before we can do anything else. The Gay Rights Defense Committee, what's so great about that is that it's built for both gays and straights, and they're working together and they're showing that we can work together. There needs to be a movement, not just in this city, but throughout this whole system, of people realizing that there's a way that this shit got to be changed. The only one that can change it is you and the people around you, by organizing.

Torch/La Antorcha: Just as in the Livernois Five Defense case a few years ago that the Revolutionary Socialist League undertook, it's

no accident that it's the revolutionaries who are building this defense case, and that other people won't. We want gays who want to fight and straights who want to fight to see through this defense case, as in the Livernois Five case, that it's the revolutionaries, it's the socialists, who are the real de-

You are supposed to be able to protect yourself. But I did it, and I went to jail, not because I'm just Jane Doe walking down the street, but because I'm Black and I'm a gay, that's right, and a woman.



fenders of the oppressed. Do you think that that's begun to happen at all?

Deborah: Yeah. All through school you're taught that Nazis and communism are the same thing, and Russia is how a communist society is set up. So when somebody says they're a communist—Aha, they want to send all the Blacks to Africa, and nowadays just kill them off, and kill off all the gays. But now, as people come around the Gay Rights Defense Committee, they're going to be around the Revolutionary Socialist League.

They're going to learn to throw out all the crap; all the lies that you've been taught. And they're going to be sur-

prised. They're going to be willing to learn, they're going to want to read.

Torch/La Antorcha: Is this what happened to you?

Deborah: Right. Because at first I said: "Ha, white liberals." And then we go over and pick out the phonies, pick out how phony they are. The shock was when I couldn't do it. Nobody showed me anything but honesty, and a breakdown of what this is really about. I've come in contact with liberals who believe in human rights, in gay rights, in Black rights, dogs' rights.

Torch/La Antorcha: What kind of role do you think the Revolutionary Socialist League could play in this?

Deborah: By organizing the working-class people and educating them. You can't organize unless you educate. People don't fight a losing battle when they see it's a loser from the jump. If you educate them and say the society is set up like this, this, and this, and we want to change it like this and this, they're going to agree with you or sympathize with you or fight with you. They don't have anything to lose,

groups, like the Socialist Workers Party, the Spartacist League, and Youth Against War and Fascism. What differences, if any, do you see between these groups and the Revolutionary Socialist League?

Deborah: What I said before, about your liberals. Totally removed, totally do not understand the real problem. There was one slogan: "Gays Are Human Too." Thank you, I am so glad that I'm a human being. I didn't know that. And that's the strongest they get for you. To them, we're just a minority, within a minority, within a minority. And to bother with us would be hazardous to their health. They look at us as such a small part of the working class that "why soil your hands?" And they can't relate to what it's like to be the slave's slave. Because that's where gay people are at. This is where Black people are at. The slave's slave. They don't realize you've got to fight, you've got to organize everybody in the working class, not just a chosen few. Not just your college students, who are frustrated civil rights workers, or somebody who doesn't have enough to do. You can't just organize them and forget about the people who have nothing to lose. Because these are your strongest fighters.

Torch/La Antorcha: All these groups are fairly small at this point and don't have a major influence on the working class. But do you feel it makes much difference, these political differences that you talk about?

Deborah: I feel they are just as much a criminal as your bourgeoisie, because they're corrupting. They're not hitting at the real point, and they're dangerous. They are not being honest to people, they're lying to people. And that's basically what the people have had all along.

Torch/La Antorcha: Is there anything else you'd like to say to readers of the *Torch/La Antorcha*?

Deborah: I would like to tell people to read *Workers Vanguard* from the Spartacist League, read the *Militant* from the Socialist Workers Party, and then pick up the *Torch/La Antorcha* and compare all three. You'll see who is relating to you and who is really fighting the struggle.

But it didn't affect them. It wasn't a change for them. It wasn't a change in the structure of society that causes it. They figured if they carried a picket sign, they were the righteous. And when they finished, they went right back to suburbia, right back to their little capitalistic lives. They didn't really make a dent in it.

Torch/La Antorcha: So your perceptions have changed a lot.

Deborah: Oh, yeah. I've got more into reading. Because I really feel I need to know what I'm talking about. I really want to know who my enemy is. If I know them, I can find out how to defeat them.

Torch/La Antorcha: During the course of the defense case, we've come into contact with other political



Trotsky addresses Red Army during the civil war that followed the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Russian Revolution. . .

(Continued from page 10)

erty, Fraternity, Equality." It said that all people were created equal, and would have equal opportunity. It said it would free the peasants and smash up the landlords.

But the Russian capitalist class was too weak and frightened to even try to keep these promises. It was tied to the landlord class and Tsarism. And it was too terrified of the workers and peasants to wage a serious struggle for any democratic rights. The Russian capitalists knew that if the people were mobilized they would not stop at eliminating the Tsar and the landlords, but would move against capitalism as well.

WORKING CLASS MUST LEAD

This meant that only the working class, concentrated and organized at the heart of industry, could lead the struggle for all the things that capitalism promised, but would never come through on.

In February 1917, the Russian workers and soldiers overthrew the Tsar. But the capitalists and fake socialists agreed that Russia had to now develop along capitalist lines. The capitalists, supported by the Mensheviks and the Social Revolutionaries, formed a new government—the Provisional Government.

But all the masses got from this capitalist government was promises. As their conditions got worse, the peasants, soldiers and oppressed nationalities began looking to the working class and the Bolshevik Party to solve the crisis in Russian society.

Based on this alliance between the workers and the rest of the oppressed people, the Russian workers were able to squash the capitalist government and establish their own rule.

Once in power, the Russian workers gave the land to the peasants. They granted the oppressed nationalities the right to decide their own fate. And they took Russia out of the imperialist war.

But the workers had to go further than that. They had to smash the power of the capitalists and turn Russia toward socialism.

But Russia was a poor and underdeveloped country. The workers' state could only survive if there were revolutions in other countries, which could aid the Russian Revolution. It was the

hope of the Bolshevik Party and the working class that these revolutions would happen.

But successful revolutions didn't happen. By 1921 the revolution had begun to degenerate. A bureaucracy started to form and to squeeze the workers out of the state apparatus.

The workers' state was in bad shape. Still, international revolution could have breathed new life into it.

TROTSKY FOUGHT FOR LENINISM

But after Lenin died in 1924, a struggle took place inside the Bolshevik Party. One side, led by Leon Trotsky, struggled against the bureaucracy that was strangling the workers' state. This faction also fought for the international revolution. It fought against the reactionary theory of socialism in one country. And it argued that the Bolshevik Party and the Russian workers' state had to do everything they could to help the workers seize power elsewhere.

The other side, led by Joseph Stalin, based itself on the growing bureaucracy. This force fought against the international revolution. It argued that you could build socialism in one country. And to do this, you had to put the interests of the Russian Revolution ahead of the interests of the international revolution.

working class, as well as most of the Bolsheviks who had led the Russian Revolution along with Lenin.

By the late 1930s, a new capitalist class had taken over in Russia, born out of the bureaucrats, engineers, and factory managers. The first and only workers' state was dead.

The defeat of the Russian Revolution shows the necessity of international revolution. Without it, the workers' state was strangled by the forces of capitalism.

Today, international socialist revolution is more necessary than ever. International capitalism is heading for a deep economic crisis. To save themselves, the capitalists will try to beat down the working class even more. They will try to turn to fascism, to smash all working-class and left organizations. They will doom the masses of people to poverty, starvation and slavery—unless we stop them.

We have to smash capitalism—before it kills all of us. We must build a revolutionary party, a party in the tradition of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, a party modeled on the Bolshevik Party—the party of the victorious socialist revolution. We of the Revolutionary Socialist League are working to build an international revolutionary party, to destroy capitalism, including state capitalism, everywhere.

To all people who have a burning hatred of capitalism, to all people who want to fight for the socialist revolution—we say join the Revolutionary Socialist League. Join us in building the revolutionary party. Join us in the fight to free all working and oppressed people from the chains of capitalist slavery.

Build the Revolutionary Marxist League! (Jamaica)

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