

Democrats Prop Up American Empire

Reagan on the Ropes

For the American ruling class, 1987 has been the year of living dangerously. They're stuck with a basket case as commander in chief who "can't remember" whether or not he armed the ayatollah. As the financial structure of the empire is shaking loose at its foundations this "what me worry?" president declares that all's well with the economy. It truly is "Bedtime for Bonzo," but Ronald Reagan's not in Hollywood any longer and he can't reshoot the scene. What keeps the stock market moneymen biting their fingernails is that this bozo still has another 14 months left on his lease at the White House—more than enough time to get the U.S. into a shoot-out in the Persian Gulf or to blow away what's left of the Dow Jones.

The bourgeoisie has been shuddering all year over the absence of a captain at the helm of the American state. But when Wall Street crashed through a black hole, it was the last straw. American presidents are at least supposed to look serious and concerned in the midst of a crisis; the image of Reagan grinning idiotically before the television cameras as the American bourgeoisie lost a quarter of the paper value of its wealth must have flashed through many a financier's nightmare. A *Boston Globe* (2 November) columnist captured it when he wrote:

"The trouble is that perhaps we could have afforded to be governed by a good-natured, doddering old gaffer when times were good. But now the stakes are simply too high and the issues too complex.... Maybe the only thing we have



Der Spiegel

Imperial president: cornered and crazed. KO Reagan and the Democrats with hard class struggle!

to fear is fear itself, but given the Reagan White House, we have every reason to be scared stiff."

The Reagan presidency was effectively put on the shelf soon after the Iran/Contragate scandal blew up last

year. The solution was to be "coalition government" between the White House and Congress, facilitated by the appointment of moderate Republican Howard Baker as chief of staff. But the Democrats have no alternative to

Reaganism, and above all they want to control the damage to the imperial presidency. The Contragate "investigation" was such a blatant cover-up of a cover-up that the televised hearings became a platform for the contra cutthroats. Emboldened, the Reaganauts provoked a showdown with Congress over the Supreme Court—and lost, twice. Judge Bork went down in flames in the Senate, and Reagan's next nominee Ginsburg went up in smoke. The result has been paralysis in Washington on everything from the budget deficit to Central America.

Now comes the Congressional committees' final ho-hum report on Iran/Contragate, condemning "a cabal of the zealots" who were following "the path to dictatorship": "The common ingredients of the Iran and Contra policies were secrecy, deception and disdain for the law." Even worse, the White House bunglers had produced "one of the worst credibility crises of any administration in U.S. history." Chief counsel Arthur Liman noted that in a parliamentary system, the Reagan regime would have fallen. But talk of impeachment was taboo from the very beginning. Instead, the Democrats decided to simply ignore the administration as House speaker Jim Wright took over negotiations with Nicaragua. Today the Democratic Party is the main prop of the American empire.

Contra in chief Reagan vowed that he would stand by his terrorists to his last

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Butcher of the Belgrano Hits King's Cross

London: Thatcher's Subway Inferno

LONDON—King's Cross station is the busiest rail and underground (subway) junction in this city of eight million, serving some 250,000 people daily: working people, shoppers, schoolchildren, tourists. Those unfortunate enough to be there at 7:30 on the evening of Wednesday, November 18 found themselves caught in a blazing inferno. At King's Cross, as at most other tube stations, there are no smoke detectors, no automatic sprinkling system, no fire alarms, no illuminated exit signs. And so they died.

Ceramic tiles exploded off the ceiling, concrete walls cracked, metal ticketing machines melted. In a matter of minutes, 30 people were burned alive as a sheet of flame and smoke emanating from an antiquated wooden escalator engulfed the station's huge ticket concourse. Another 50 were hospitalised, several of them still fighting for their

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Dobney/Independent

London tube station, the day after. Thirty people were trapped and burned alive November 18.

Holiday Appeal for Class-War Prisoners

We must not forget the class-war prisoners—those in prison for standing up to racist capitalist oppression—whose freedom is in the interest of the whole of the working people. As International Labor Defense (ILD) founder and first secretary (1925-1928) James P. Cannon expressed, "The class-conscious worker accords to the class-war prisoners a place of singular honor and esteem" (*Labor Defender*, September 1926).

The ILD sent monthly stipends and also raised additional funds at Christmas for the imprisoned worker-militants and their families. The Partisan Defense Committee has revived both traditions and is now initiating our second holiday appeal to raise funds for monthly stipends and holiday gifts for the 21 class-war prisoners and their families. Let them know that they are not forgotten!

The response of the capitalists, Republicans and Democrats alike, to the "Crash of '87" is more pain and suffering for America's poor and working people. The cops and courts seek to assure that those who fight the poverty and racism endemic to capitalism are "housed" in prison hellholes or their graves. While their jailers glut on roast

goose, many of the class-war prisoners have spent more than a decade of Christmases behind bars. Former Black Panther leader Geronimo Pratt has been behind bars for 18 years framed up for a crime he did not and could not have committed, as part of the FBI's racist COINTELPRO conspiracy to "neutralize" black activists. Former Nebraska Panther leaders Ed Poindexter and David Rice (now known as Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa), Hugo Pinell, one of the San Quentin Six, and Ruchell Magee also remain in prison hellholes for fighting racist oppression.

Ramona Africa is the sole adult survivor of the 13 May 1985 bombing of the Philadelphia MOVE commune—a government message to blacks who dare to challenge America's racist status quo. We send stipends to Africa family members scattered in prisons throughout Pennsylvania for defending their homes from earlier cop assaults in 1977 and 1978—Janet Holloway, Consuewella Dotson, Janine Phillips, Charles Sims, William Phillips, Delbert Orr, Alberta Wicker, Susan Leon, Michael Davis, Merle Austin, Debbie Sims. They saw their babies and most of their loved ones



TROTSKY

The Revolutionary Party—Tribune of the People

In defining the tasks of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party at the turn of the century, V. I. Lenin launched a fight against the "Economists," who restricted the workers' struggle to narrow trade-union issues. His 1902 pamphlet *What Is To Be Done?* stressed that "class political consciousness can be brought to the workers only from without," that is, from the relations of all classes to the state. Acting



LENIN

as the memory of the working class and its leader in struggle, the party must be a tribune of the people. The Leninist vanguard party, mobilizing the oppressed behind the banner of the proletariat, was the crucial instrument that enabled the Bolsheviks to lead the Russian 1917 October Revolution.

We have seen that the conduct of the broadest political agitation and, consequently, of all-sided political exposures is an absolutely necessary and a paramount task of our activity, if this activity is to be truly Social-Democratic.

... the Social-Democrat's ideal should not be the trade-union secretary, but the tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalise all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat....

—V. I. Lenin, *What Is To Be Done? Burning Questions of Our Movement* (1902)

WORKERS VANGUARD

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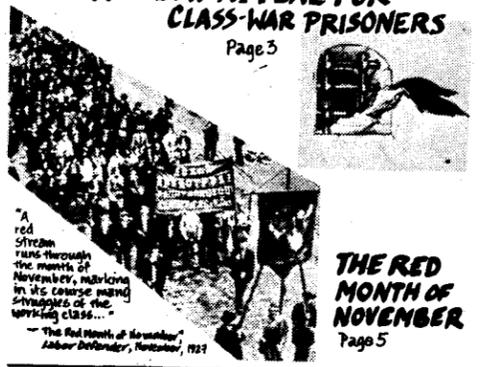
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27 November 1987

HOLIDAY APPEAL FOR CLASS-WAR PRISONERS

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With your contribution of \$5 or more, receive a subscription to **Class-Struggle Defense Notes**. For a single copy of issue Number 6, send \$.75 to: **Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.**

murdered in the savage police bombing of their Osage Avenue home. For his outspoken support of MOVE, journalist and former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal is on Pennsylvania's death row, framed up on charges of killing a Philadelphia cop in 1981.

Across the seas, Mordechai Vanunu faces the death penalty in Israel for exposing the extent of the Zionist state's nuclear arsenal. And in Britain, miners Russell Shankland and Dean Hancock have spent three years of an eight-year sentence, imprisoned for defending their picket lines and union during the 1984-1985 bitter fight against Margaret Thatcher's vicious union-busting.

Support for the class-war prisoners is not an act of charity but the duty of those on the outside to those inside prison walls. Come to the Holiday Appeal fundraisers in New York and Chicago (see ad below). Send your checks to the PDC. Don't forget the class-war prisoners!

On December 1, Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu again steps into the dock to stand trial for his life. Vanunu faces the death penalty for his courageous exposure of Israel's arsenal of 100-200 nuclear weapons, fixed on Arab capitals and the Soviet workers state, and posing the threat of a thermonuclear holocaust.

For his courageous act Vanunu was recently named the recipient of the 1987 Right Livelihood Award, known as the "alternative Nobel Prize." He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the British Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 40 British Members of Parliament and nine Australian MPs and senators. The Nobel Commission, which normally gives the award to war criminals like Irgun terrorist Menachem Begin claimed the nomination was submitted "too late"—and then gave it to the later nominee Costa Rican president Oscar Arias. Noted author Gore Vidal wrote to the international Spartacist tendency, "Yes, I think Vanunu is a hero and so ought not to have a

prize tarnished by such recipients as Kissinger."

Inside the Zionist fortress itself, increasing numbers are braving state repression to stand up for Vanunu. He did a great service to humanity and that debt must be repaid. International working-class defense must be mobilized to save Vanunu. Donations can be sent to: Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 45005, Somerville, MA 02145.

"The sentimentalization of children in America is particularly apparent at Christmas time.... This sugar-plum hypocrisy takes place against a background of a massive failure of decent feeling for children, as juveniles are legally murdered.

"Let's not begin with the statistics this time. Let's begin with Ronald Ward on death row in Arkansas. He's 16 years old. He's black. He was 15 when the crime occurred for which he was sentenced to death."

To read more of "A Child's Christmas on Death Row" get the latest issue of *Class-Struggle Defense Notes*, just published. This issue also features Cannon's "Red Month of November"—honoring the Bolshevik Revolution, Haymarket martyrs and other revolutionary traditions—and updates on the class-war prisoners and other cases and causes in the interests of the whole of the working people. Get your copy now.

We encourage *WV* readers to continue to support and build the PDC. We now have over 75 sustaining contributors from around the world, and more than 375 others who have contributed \$5 or more during the past year. Help us reach our goal of 100 monthly sustainers and 500 contributors by the New Year. Become a sustaining contributor. Send a donation of \$5 or more and receive a subscription to *Class-Struggle Defense Notes*. For a single copy send \$.75 to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, New York 10013. ■

Partisan Defense Committee Benefits

Holiday Appeal for Class-War Prisoners

Saturday, December 5
7:30-11:30 p.m.

Szechuan Empire
119 Court Street, Brooklyn

Co-sponsor: New York Labor Black League for Social Defense

Sunday, December 6
4:00-8:00 p.m.

1212 South Michigan, Party Room

Food, entertainment and bar (Childcare provided)

CHICAGO

For more information: (212) 267-1025

For more information: (312) 663-0719

Tickets: \$5 advance, \$8 at door, \$10 contributing

Defend Kentucky Miners!

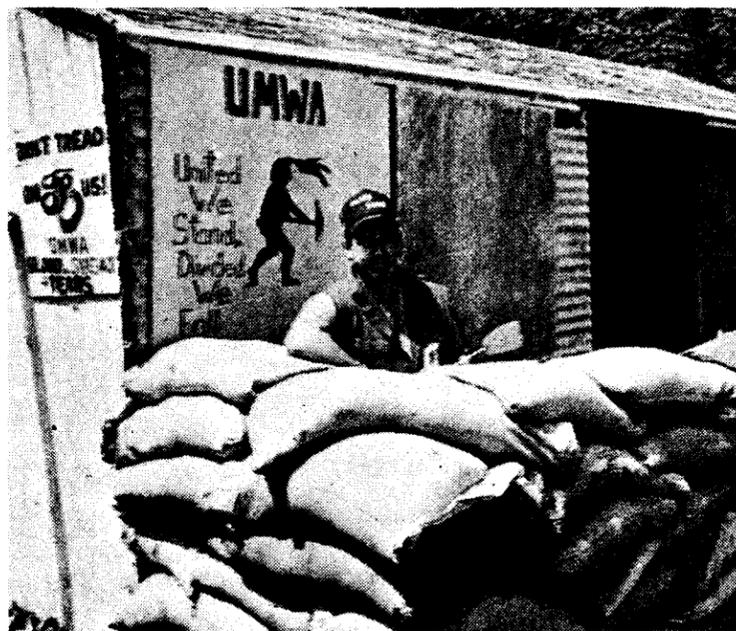
Facing life imprisonment and million-dollar fines, five members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local Union 2496 and one union supporter will go on trial in London, Kentucky beginning November 24. Donnie Thornsbury, the local president, his cousin David Thornsbury, vice president Irvin Smith, his brother Darrell, Paul Smith and Arnold Heightland are facing trumped-up federal charges of conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce. This frame-up stems from the shooting death of a scab coal truck driver during the bitter 15-month strike against the nation's sixth-largest coal producer, A.T. Massey Coal Company, in 1984-85. The entire labor movement and all defenders of democratic rights must rally to their defense. An injury to one is an injury to all!

In August, heavily armed FBI agents and state police launched an early morning raid on the miners' homes, arresting five. Paul Smith was picked up last month. The workers are being tried separately and are not permitted to consult with each other in their defense. Moreover, U.S. District Judge Eugene Siler has used the police-state "Bail Reform Act" passed in 1984 to deny bail, outrageously claiming that the men are a danger to the community. As Charles Dixon, UMWA District 30 International Executive Board member, told *WV*: "It looks like the guys are going to have to prove themselves innocent."

This attack by the bosses' state is the "legal" continuation of the war which Massey and the government waged on the UMWA during the strike. A.T. Massey mines in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky were struck on 1 October 1984 when the company refused to sign the union's national contract because it includes crucial "panel rights," giving laid-off miners hiring rights at other mines of the same company. Massey hired scabs. Mass pickets and demonstrations in front of Norfolk & Western coal trains were answered with \$200,000 in fines and hundreds of arrests. And Massey, partly owned by the Fluor Corporation which specializes in slave-labor operations in "free world" strongholds like South Africa and Chile, brought in an army of gun thugs. These killer contras included "former" Green Berets and veteran mercenaries from imperialism's dirty, losing wars in Rhodesia, Central America and the Near East.

The company spent millions on miles of chain link fences and cement observation posts; it equipped its uniformed guards with attack dogs, M-16s and,

reportedly, machine guns. Massey deployed helicopters, armored personnel carriers and an armored locomotive nicknamed the "Bull Moose Special." This was the same name given to the armor-plated, machine gun-equipped train the coal operators used to trans-



Bertram/Lexington Herald-Leader

port scabs in the bloody coal field wars in Cabin Creek and Paint Creek, West Virginia in 1912-13. A few years later the battleground was nearby Tug Fork valley, a struggle vividly portrayed in the current movie *Matewan*. Many Massey strikers are from the same area and not much has changed. As Charles Dixon, who lives less than a mile from Matewan, told *WV*:

"It's a constant struggle. They come in and they bring their big pocketbook, buy up a bunch of county officials, start controlling the county, bring in their gun thugs, put up their chain link fence. They set 'em up a little terrorist camp. During the Massey strike there were probably 100 or so UMWA members' homes that were shot up, mine included. There were lots and lots of mine workers that were seriously injured. It was not one-sided."

Massey strikers fought virtually alone from the first day of their walkout. Abandoning the union's tradition of industrywide shutdowns to enforce a national contract, UMWA president Rich Trumka called for "selective strikes" against operators who refused to sign the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) agreement. In February 1985, when Massey threatened to fire all strikers from its Sprouse Creek processing plant in Lobata, West Virginia, picket lines rapidly grew to more than 1,000. But Trumka ordered

them reduced as a "gesture of good faith." The next day 50 pickets were arrested. Trumka called off the strike in December 1985, putting his faith in a National Labor Relations Board ruling that Massey and its affiliates constitute a single employer. Now, three years



Gumpert/UMW Journal

Class war in the coal fields: Striker mans picket bunker in Canada, Kentucky (left). Miners from this local now stand trial for solidarity action with A.T. Massey strikers' 15-month struggle (above).

after the walkout, the Massey miners have still not been called back to work and the scabs are still in the mine.

This sabotage of the Massey strike was backed by the *Militant* (10 January 1986), paper of the very non-militant Socialist Workers Party (SWP), which joined Trumka in hailing the NLRB ruling as an "important step forward for the union." The SWP (far from unique as a would-be water boy for "progressive" union tops) covers for Trumka's "selective defeats," just as they were press agents for Arnold Miller's alliance with the U.S. Labor Department which dragged the miners union into the capitalist courts. They were still backing Miller even as West Virginia miners were burning him in effigy and ripping up his sellout deals with the BCOA bosses in the 1977-78 strike.

Trumka couples his losing strategy of "selective strikes" and faith in the bosses' courts and labor boards with protectionist poison—pitting U.S. miners against their class brothers in other countries in a desperate scramble for jobs. Under the pretense of fighting apartheid terror in South Africa, Trumka is campaigning to boycott Shell Oil because of its coal mining operations there. But the South Africa connection is Trumka's cover for calling to halt all coal imports in order to "protect" the

jobs of American miners. Trumka makes chauvinist appeals that "Apartheid is a direct threat to American jobs" (*United Mine Workers Journal*, February 1986). What's needed instead is international class solidarity, through common strike action against the multinational giants like Fluor and Shell.

The current contract with the BCOA expires on January 31 and negotiations with the coal operators have already begun. If the miners facing trial in Kentucky are convicted it will embolden the bosses now under union contract to

follow Massey's example of spitting on the UMWA. But the answer to the arrogant coal bosses comes from the mine workers' own history. During the heroic '77-78 coal strike, Jimmy Carter's strikebreaking Taft-Hartley injunction was burned in the coal fields.

In August 1974, a five-day national work stoppage was called to force the Duke Power Company to recognize the UMWA after a 13-month strike in Brookside, Kentucky. (That battle was immortalized in the award-winning movie, *Harlan County, USA*.) This kind of united union action would have brought Massey to its knees three years ago and there'd be no strikers in jail today! But Trumka doesn't want to embarrass his "friends of labor" capitalist politicians in the Democratic Party. With Reagan on the ropes, now is the time for some good hard class struggle. Miners throughout the coal fields ought to take a "holiday" and demand: Free the Kentucky miners! Drop the charges! Shove a standard union contract down A.T. Massey's throat!

* * *

The Partisan Defense Committee has contributed to the legal defense of the Kentucky miners now facing trial. Readers of *WV* are urged to send contributions to: Citizens for Justice, Box 8, Canada, KY 41519. ■

El Salvador: Centeno Brothers Freed

Over 400 Salvadoran political prisoners were released in early November as part of the Central American "peace accords." *Workers Vanguard* has learned from San Salvador that José and Jaime Centeno, sons of telephone workers union (ASTTEL) leader Humberto Centeno, were among those released. The Duarte government's kidnapping, brutal torture and imprisonment of the Centenos for the last two years starkly revealed the hideous reality behind the "Made in U.S.A." death squad "democracy." *WV* denounced their arrest and defended the heroic ASTTEL workers, against whom the vicious treatment of the Centeno

brothers was directed. The Partisan Defense Committee took up their case and sent a contribution to their aid. José now faces extensive surgical care for shrapnel wounds suffered in a barbarous attack on Mariona prison by government troops last August.

We are overjoyed to hear that the Centenos and hundreds of imprisoned unionists have been released. Still languishing behind bars, however, are those alleged to have been involved in the spectacular 1985 attack on U.S. Marine "advisers" in the Zona Rosa section of San Salvador. And for those who were liberated, their "freedom" is relative. All leftists and union militants



Charles Kernaghan

Salvadoran union leader Humberto Centeno (center) with sons Jaime (left) and José (second from right).

live in fear of the terror squads whose activity has increased as the army and Duarte regime crumble. Now the "Arias plan" demands that aid to the FDR/FMLN rebels be cut off, and that they "negotiate" with the murderous

oppressors of the working class. A just peace will come to long-suffering El Salvador only when leftist insurgents and militant workers smash the death squads and their capitalist masters once and for all. ■

Coyoacán Meeting Commemorates

Leon Trotsky and the Bolshevik Revolution

On November 7, in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, an all-day cultural celebration was held at the Leon Trotsky Museum in Coyoacán, Mexico. The site is the house where Trotsky lived and worked during the last years of his life before being struck down by a Stalinist assassin in August 1940. An art exhibition by young painters filled the grounds and various rooms, there were musical groups and a poetry reading in the Museum garden, and a video of Trotsky's daily life was shown in the dining room.

In the evening there were two roundtable discussions, attended by around 100 people, covering a spectrum of views on the theme of "Leon Trotsky and the Bolshevik Revolution." The first was addressed by Esteban Volkov Bronstein, Trotsky's grandson, and by Jan Norden of the international Spartacist tendency. We print their remarks below, translated from the Spanish by WV. The second discussion included Javier Contreras, Adolfo Gilly and Manuel Aguilar Mora of the PRT (Revolutionary Workers Party), Mexican affiliate of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International.

A topic of discussion was the petition campaign by social democrats and various ostensible Trotskyists calling on the Kremlin to "rehabilitate" Trotsky. Yet Trotsky fought, both theoretically and in his practical work together with Lenin in the leadership of the Soviet state and at the head of the Red Army, for a socialist society rather different from what exists in the Soviet Union today. Thus, as the Spartacist speaker noted, it's hardly surprising that the bureaucracy should pervert Lenin and denounce Trotsky, as Gorbachev did in his 70th anniversary speech.

The November 7 Coyoacán commemoration was filmed by the Hispanic American Television Network. In addition, there has been renewed attention to Trotsky and the Trotsky Museum in the international press (see facing page).

Esteban Volkov:

After a vast press campaign in Europe, in France, everywhere, of talk about rehabilitating Trotsky on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, not only were the creator of the Red Army and Lenin's entire Old Guard—Bolshevik comrades all of them—not rehabilitated, but just so there wouldn't be any doubts about Gorbachev's loyalty to the group he heads, he still had to characterize the founder of the Red Army as a vacillating and cheating politician and a petty-bourgeois factionalist.

In contrast, he recognized Leninist attributes in Joseph Stalin, who assassinated the entire Bolshevik Old Guard. And Gorbachev also praised Stalin's abilities as a leader in the Second World War, when it's well known that Stalin could be charged with the crime of high treason against the Soviet Union, for decapitating the Red Army shortly before the Nazi invasion. He liquidated all the experienced generals, all the officials trained in the art of war, leaving the army headless against the Nazi invasion, with a real danger that Russia



Leon Trotsky, founder of the Red Army, reviewing troops in Moscow's Red Square, 1921.

could lose the war. If it didn't lose, it was in part due to the great vitality and heroism of the Russian people, and as well to "General Winter" which has also inflicted great defeats on the invaders of Russia.

In any case, without a doubt the terms used by Gorbachev to diminish Trotsky sound quite friendly after all the diatribes and all the insults and slanders spewed out at the time of Stalin and his supporters, accusing Trotsky of being an agent of the Mikado and spying on orders from Hitler. They quickly became accustomed to changing it according to the opportunist policies and the shifts and orders from Stalin, who also changed the networks and the chiefs for whom Trotsky was supposedly working. So when Stalin carried out the non-aggression pact with Hitler, automatically Trotsky was assigned to the espionage service of England, the United States and the French Deuxième Bureau. So it seems Trotsky was quite changeable in his "terrorist" activities.

We must not forget that the clashes between Leon Trotsky and Stalin and his followers, his supporters, were not the result of antipathy or character differences, but had a very well-founded political basis: Trotsky and Stalin were on different sides of the barricade. Trotsky unconditionally defended the postulates of Marxism and the interests of the working class and peasantry, or agri-

nomenklatura. Today there are still differences over if it is a political class or a social class, or if it isn't a social class. Vozlensky, a Russian historian, defends the viewpoint that it is a social class. It has the most absolute and total power which any political or social class has had in the history of humanity. No one could rival or compete with it in terms of absolutism or the control that the Soviet bureaucracy has in Russia.

Little by little this bureaucracy took over every space, down to the last corner of life in the Soviet Union. And in fact, it turned what was the dictatorship of the proletariat into the dictatorship over the proletariat. But so much control, so much paternalism and so much love smother and kills. And the economies of those countries with statified property, governed by fossilized and paralyzed bureaucracies, are falling behind in every field of creativity, of progress, in technology, not to mention the economy, in science, in the arts. In everything the situation is becoming dangerous—the countries with a statified economy headed by bureaucracies are falling totally behind the progress, so dynamic, so revolutionary, being undergone by the capitalist countries.

Thus the bureaucracy—to its own regret—has to recognize that its presence introduces so much dead weight in every sphere in the countries with a statified economy that it endangers its own survival. And that obliges the bureaucracy to look for a way out, and to pose the question of whether the bureaucracy has the capacity to modernize and renovate itself, to give way, to create space for freedom and democracy and allow the working and peasant classes to determine their own fate; that from being the proprietor and lord the bureaucracy can become a helping partner and friendly guide of the workers, and peasants, which can pare down its gains and privileges, creating a symbiotic rather than a parasitic relationship. Sounds like pure utopia, doesn't it?

It would be a way, perhaps, of acquiring a historic legitimacy which it doesn't have, because in reality the bureaucracy usurped a revolution which was made in the name of the working class



Esteban Volkov Bronstein, Trotsky's grandson (left), and Jan Norden (center) at 70th anniversary celebration of Russian Revolution in Trotsky's house, Coyoacán, Mexico.

Mexico City Journal

Grandfather Fed the Rabbits as He Battled Stalin

By LARRY ROHTER
Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 12 — Lenin lies in his tomb on Red Square, and Stalin is interred at the Kremlin Wall. But the ashes of Leon Trotsky, theoretician of the Bolshevik Revolution and founder of the Red Army, remain in exile and oblivion in the quiet garden of the small house here where he was assassinated by a presumed Soviet agent 47 years ago.

Esteban Volkov Bronstein, however, wants to see that changed, and has been encouraged by recent events in the Soviet Union. He is the grandson of Trotsky, whose private name was Lev Davidovich Bronstein, and guardian of his memory. Mr. Volkov, who is a Mexican citizen, wants the Soviet leadership to restore his grandfather to his rightful place in history and to acknowledge Stalin's guilt in his death.

"We are observing the process of glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union favorably," Mr. Volkov said this week, referring to Moscow's catch phrases for openness and economic restructuring. He sat and talked in a cool, dark study of the house where he once lived with his grandfather. "But until there is a re-establishment of the historical truth about this monstrous process of assassination ordered by Stalin, we must keep insisting on this point."

In a major speech earlier this month, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, condemned Stalin for "enormous and unforgivable crimes" but did not rehabilitate Trotsky, whom he called "an excessively self-assured politician who always vacillated and cheated." Mr. Volkov quarrels with that description, but says that even negative comments about Trotsky stimulate worldwide interest in his maternal grandfather and underline his importance in the Marxist-Leninist pantheon.

Stalin vs. Trotsky

Though it was never proved that Stalin ordered Trotsky's assassination, the two were bitter rivals until Stalin succeeded in expelling Trotsky from Russia in 1929 and had him later sentenced to death in absentia. Their



Esteban Volkov Bronstein, grandson of Leon Trotsky, standing by monument containing his grandfather's ashes in garden of house in Mexico City where Trotsky was assassinated in 1940. House is now a museum.

friction went beyond personalities and power politics to include ideological differences. Stalin sought to build an invincible Communist state "in one country," while Trotsky argued for a "permanent revolution" that would engulf the world.

"He was the first to denounce state bureaucracy and deviations from Leninism," Mr. Volkov said of his grandfather. "He was always one of the great theoreticians and representatives of Marxist thought, but he is especially relevant at this moment, as Gorbachev himself has made clear by attacking bureaucracy and economic stagnation."

These days, the house at Calle Vienna 45 where Trotsky worked and lived for the last three years of his life is a museum, financed by the Mexican Government and adherents of

Trotsky's doctrine of "permanent revolution." The study where he was killed with an mountaineer's ice ax has been preserved. Bullet holes in the wall from an earlier assassination attempt have also been left untouched.

Several dozen visitors tour the museum each day, ranging from curious American tourists to Latin American, Japanese and Western European Trotskyists for whom it is a shrine. There are even a few cautious visitors from Eastern Europe, where Trotsky is still a non-person, blanked out of photographs and omitted from textbooks.

"Over the years, we have had some Soviets come here, including an entire soccer team a few years ago," Mr. Volkov said. "But when they

come, they don't sign the guest book."

Recently, however, there have been some signs that even that reluctance is on its way to becoming a thing of the past. Entries in the museum register on Nov. 5 include the signatures of three Russians, including one Viktor Andreyev of Moscow.

This Legendary Figure

"I guess that itself is one sign of glasnost," Mr. Volkov said with a shrug. "Many people in the Soviet Union just do not believe the 60 years of lies, fabrications and calumnies that are the only thing they have heard, and want to know the truth about this legendary figure."

Mr. Volkov, who is 61 years old, was born in Yalta on the Black Sea, and joined his grandfather in Mexico in 1939. When Trotsky was assassinated

in August 1940, Mr. Volkov was living here with his grandfather, grandmother and assorted bodyguards and aides. He has since forgotten Russian but speaks Spanish, French and English.

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The Followers Are Heartened

Some of those who gathered here last week for the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution said they are more optimistic about their political prospects than at any time in the recent past.

"There is a significant change in the climate right now," said Jan Norden, editor of the American Trotskyist newspaper "Worker's Vanguard" and a member of the central committee of the Spartacist League of the United States. "Events in the Soviet Union and renewed attention worldwide to the role of Trotsky have provided us with a real opening."

Mr. Volkov predicted that the struggle to restore his grandfather's reputation "won't be resolved overnight."

He went on, "Gorbachev is under much pressure from the bureaucracy and retrograde sectors that want to maintain the status quo, so he has to brake the process in order not to create too much discontent."

Nevertheless, Mr. Volkov said he hoped the Soviet leadership would acknowledge Trotsky's historical role and rehabilitate him and Stalin's other victims.

"Trotsky himself does not need to be rehabilitated, especially by his executioners, because the whole world knows him and what he stood for," Mr. Volkov said. "But other cases of collective assassination without reason and with no legal base, these need to be brought to light. Until that change takes place, the current Soviet Government cannot disconnect itself from what Stalin did."

Contrary to the *New York Times*, it has long since been proved that Stalin ordered Trotsky's execution. The Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros, author of the failed machine-gun attack on Trotsky in May 1940, has admitted that Stalin "ordered... the physical elimination of Trotsky." Stalinist leader Valentín Campa revealed that the

Mexican CP leadership even debated the murder. The assassin, Ramón Mercader, was a former member of the Catalan CP, and for his heinous deed, his mother received from Stalin the Kremlin's highest decorations. See "How the Stalinists Planned Trotsky's Murder," *WV* No. 218, 3 November 1978.

and peasantry, and for the working class. Of course, in the conditions of backwardness of a country like Russia, with a not very numerous working class which still had a very low level of schooling, it really wasn't able to hold on to power. And so they were bilked of it, fleeced, by this new class, or group, however you want to call it, which is the bureaucracy.

Ultimately, the next chapters of history, which indisputably will be quite thrilling, are going to show what will be the outcome of this sometimes tragic novel which is history—whether the bureaucracy is an excrescence of a planned system, which due to its own evolution and the contradictions of the progress of the country will disappear—which is very probable. History has taught us that power is not bestowed or granted but must be conquered. And it's probable that the Russian working class, which is no longer in the stage it was at the time of the Russian Revolution—it is a numerous class, a class now with great political consciousness—if its rights are not granted by the bureaucracy, it will know how to seize them by force.

Jan Norden:

We are meeting on this November 7 to celebrate the event which after 70 years remains the greatest victory of the workers of the world, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. And we are celebrating it here, before the grave of Lev Davidovich Trotsky, in the house where he carried out, during the last years of his life, the great work of constructing the Fourth International. We

Trotsky: martyr's return? June Bussey in Mexico City on the rehabilitation of a revolutionary

THE GUARDIAN
10 November 1987

Trotsky's Grandson Waits for Moscow to Fill In Blank in History

By Larry Rohter
MEXICO CITY — Leon lies in a tomb in Red Square, and Stalin is interred in the Kremlin Wall. But the ashes of Leon Trotsky, theoretician of the Bolshevik Revolution and founder of the Red Army, remain in exile and oblivion in the quiet garden of the small house in Mexico City where he was assassinated by a presumed Soviet agent 47 years ago.

Esteban Volkov Bronstein, however, wants to see that changed, and has been encouraged by recent events in the Soviet Union. He is the grandson of Trotsky, whose private name was Lev Davidovich Bronstein, and guardian of his memory. Mr. Volkov, who is a Mexican citizen, wants the Soviet leadership to restore his grandfather to his rightful place in history and to acknowledge Stalin's guilt in his death.

"We are observing the process of glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union favorably," Mr. Volkov said this week, referring to Moscow's catch phrases for openness and economic restructuring. He sat and talked in a cool, dark study of the house where he once lived with his grandfather. "But until there is a re-establishment of the historical truth about this monstrous process of assassination ordered by Stalin, we must keep insisting on this point."

In a major speech earlier this month, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, condemned Stalin for "enormous and unforgivable crimes" but did not rehabilitate Trotsky, whom he called "an excessively self-assured politician who always vacillated and cheated." Mr. Volkov quarrels with that description, but says that even negative comments about Trotsky stimulate worldwide interest in his maternal grandfather and underline his importance in the Marxist-Leninist pantheon.

Though it was never proved that Stalin ordered Trotsky's assassination, the two were bitter rivals until Stalin succeeded in expelling Trotsky from Russia in 1929 and had him later sentenced to death in absentia. Their

friction went beyond personalities and power politics to include ideological differences. Stalin sought to build an invincible Communist state "in one country," while Trotsky argued for a "permanent revolution" that would engulf the world.

"He was the first to denounce state bureaucracy and deviations from Leninism," Mr. Volkov said of his grandfather. "He was always one of the great theoreticians and representatives of Marxist thought, but he is especially relevant at this moment, as Gorbachev himself has made clear by attacking bureaucracy and economic stagnation."

These days, the house at Calle Vienna 45 where Trotsky worked and lived for the last three years of his life is a museum, financed by the Mexican Government and adherents of Trotsky's doctrine of "permanent revolution." The study where he was killed with an mountaineer's ice ax has been preserved. Bullet holes in the wall from an earlier assassination attempt have also been left untouched.

Several dozen visitors tour the museum each day, ranging from curious American tourists to Latin American, Japanese and Western European Trotskyists for whom it is a shrine. There are even a few cautious visitors from Eastern Europe, where Trotsky is still a non-person, blanked out of photographs and omitted from textbooks.

"Over the years, we have had some Soviets come here, including an entire soccer team a few years ago," Mr. Volkov said. "But when they come, they don't sign the guest book."

Recently, however, there have been some signs that even that reluctance is on its way to becoming a thing of the past. Entries in the museum register on Nov. 5 include the signatures of three Russians, including one Viktor Andreyev of Moscow.

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Herald Tribune
17 November 1987

Gorbachev's talk of filling "blank spaces" in history draws international press attention to Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky.

do so not only to invoke the historic figure of Trotsky, co-leader together with Vladimir Ilyich Lenin of the Russian Revolution and the early Communist International, founder of the Red Army who forged the fighting force that defeated the White Guards and the invading troops of 14 imperialist countries who sought to strangle the young Soviet republic. We do so as well to underline the importance today of the Leninist-Trotskyist program.

From November 1917 on, the imperialists have sought to restore capitalist exploitation in the USSR. And today, with a war-crazed maniac in the White House who jokes of "bombing Russia in five minutes," with an anti-Soviet war drive whose first target is Sandinista Nicaragua, defense of the Soviet Union is today more than ever the duty of every class-conscious worker. And to defend

the gains of October, it's necessary to return to the road of Lenin and Trotsky, fighting to extend the socialist revolution to the entire planet.

We must say it clearly: Leon Trotsky was murdered because of his fidelity to the principles and program of Leninism, which represented a mortal danger for Stalin and the nationalist bureaucracy which he headed. There was a glaring contradiction between Lenin's struggle for world revolution and the Stalinist schema of "building socialism in one country"—so this gravedigger of the revolution tried to rewrite history with a mountaineer's ax. Not only did he murder the Trotskyist Left Oppositionists by the thousands, but in order to cover his betrayal of the October Revolution he had the entire remaining Central Committee of 1917 shot along with the general staff of the Red Army.

Yet still today, although they may condemn Stalin himself for a "cult of the personality" and even for crimes, and despite the fact that for the first time in 60 years there is a leadership in the Kremlin which didn't participate in the reign of terror under the "great organizer of defeats," the spectre of Trotsky haunts Gorbachev's Russia. Proof of this is the speech of Mikhail Gorbachev last week on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution in which he "rehabilitates," to a degree, Khrushchev, says some nice things about Bukharin and characterizes Stalin's "acts of illegality" as "unpardonable," but continues to treat Trotsky as a devil. This is no accident. The differences between Bukharin and Stalin were within the framework of a bureaucratic regime, hot soviet democracy, and they shared the same fundamental program of limiting the revolution to the boundaries of an isolated Russia. Today as yesterday, the bureaucracy fears the program of permanent revolution, because it seeks above all an illusory "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism. And in vituperating against the "export of revolution" it resorts to lies to distort the true content of Leninism.

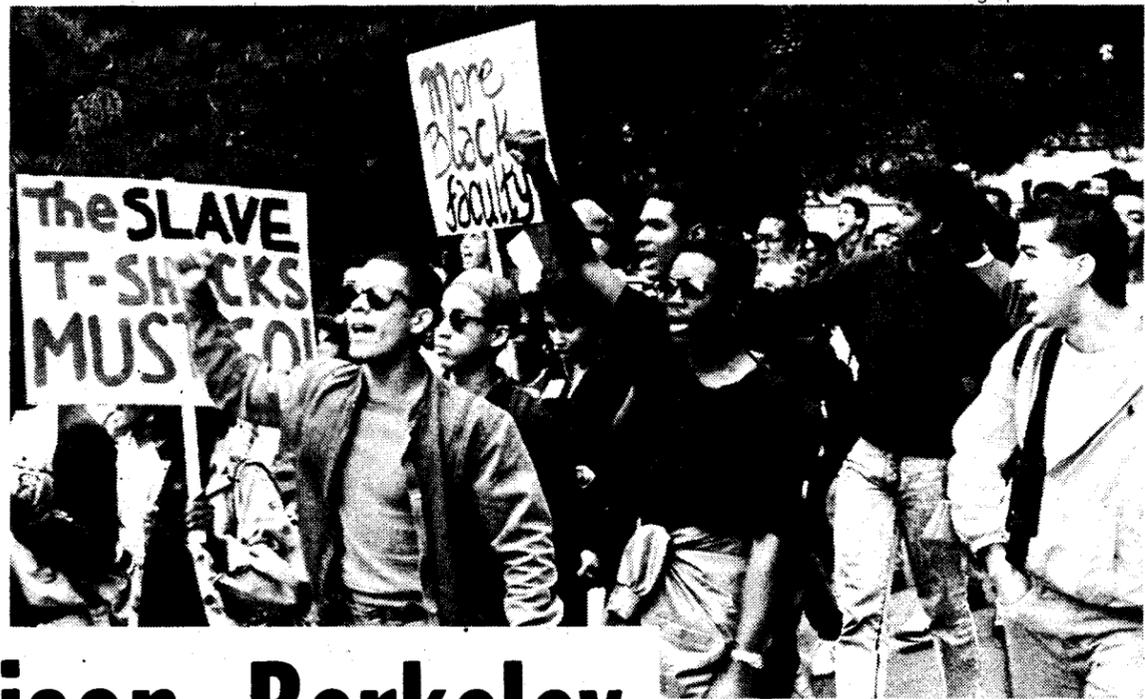
Gorbachev says that "the party's leading nucleus, headed by Josef Stalin, had safeguarded Leninism...." What Leninist line is he speaking of? Would it be Stalin's policy in March 1917 when he opposed the slogan "Down with the war!", when he censored Lenin's "Letters from Afar" and called to support the Provisional Government "to the extent that it fortifies the steps of the

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Young Spartacus

Students: Ally with Labor to Smash Racist Attacks!

Young Spartacus Photos



Madison, November 6:
300 protest racist frat rat attacks
on black and Jewish students.

Madison, Berkeley

Berkeley, October 16:
Protesters demand desegregation
of liberal university.

The unprecedented wave of racist attacks that broke out on traditionally liberal college campuses last spring made headlines in the bourgeois press and prompted sanctimonious denunciations by university officials. Yet today minority students across the country continue to be on the receiving end of raw violence. The University of California's Berkeley campus has been rocked by revelations of racist limits on Asian enrollment, and large protest marches by black students against cowardly Klan-style attacks. As the Berkeley Spartacus Youth Club wrote in a leaflet distributed on the campus:

"Racist attacks at Cal must be *smashed*. A black student chased out of a football game by white racists. A dead chicken placed at a dorm gym with a note around its neck reading 'Kill niggers and Jews.' The letters 'KKK'—symbol of lynch-ropes murder—carved above a black woman's dorm-room bed. Racist epithets scrawled on black organizations' flyers. Two black women run out of a housing co-op. This kind of racist terror here at Cal is part of a pattern of vicious attacks against black students on campuses across the country, on a scale not seen since at least the 1920's. In Reagan's Amerika, where the capitalist rulers have been carrying out a *class war* against the working class and minorities, it has become 'respectable' to spew racist filth, and emboldened scum translate their bigotry into the language of violence."

Meanwhile, at the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus, the Spartacus Youth Club has been in the forefront of fighting for the kind of mass, militant protests necessary to put an end to the attacks by a pack of frat rats on minority students. In a leaflet distributed to a protest in Madison on November 6, the SYC wrote:

"Last spring the campus bigots were erecting racist statues and holding racist parties. On Oct. 29, Alasdair Cripps, Andrew Falci and other members of the Phi Gamma Delta 'Fiji' fraternity

violently attacked three members of the predominantly Jewish Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. They called out anti-Semitic and racial slurs, threatened with a knife, and sent three ZBTers including one black to the hospital.

"This is just one of a score of attacks on blacks and Jews that have occurred recently in Madison. On Sept. 28 a black freshman was brutally beaten by four white thugs on Park Street. During registration week this fall, racists shouted anti-Semitic epithets and hurled bricks at two members of Nottingham co-op, one who is Jewish. A swastika was painted on a tree at Hillel. Langdon Street [Madison's fraternity row] has become a 'Botha Boulevard' where blacks are afraid to walk."

This racist crap has got to be stopped!
The demonstrations of hundreds of students in Berkeley and Madison exposed the most recent atrocities and galvanized anti-racist forces in public condemnation of these attacks. But these

protests—narrowly focused on reforming the universities and calling on the administration to ban racist fraternities, establish "racial awareness" training courses for punk bigots, or "ethnic studies" requirements for all students—will not end racism in this capitalist society.

Just look at what happened with the "Fiji" frat thugs in Madison. Suspended for installing a 15-foot statue of a black man with a bone through his nose on the front lawn of their frat house and partying in black face, the frat rats were obliged to attend special classes aimed at "behavior modification." They then celebrated their reinstatement by bashing black and Jewish students! In an editorial the *Daily Cardinal* (3 November) dryly noted, "Apparently a racism workshop didn't quite do the trick."

Anti-racist students are looking for

answers. A local rad-lib paper, the *Madison Isthmus*, prominently reprinted a call for militant action from the SYC's leaflet: "Students and labor must mobilize in militant action to drive these race-terrorists off campus now, *before* anyone else gets hurt or killed! If one of these Nazi-inspired punks were nabbed and displayed naked with a yellow stripe down his back it would do more than a thousand 'race relationship workshops'."

The root cause of racism is not "bad ideas" in the skulls of aberrant individuals, but a rotting capitalist system that keeps black people subjugated as a race-color caste at the bottom of the economy, the "last hired, first fired." America's rulers shift the blame for desperate poverty and racism onto the victims of capitalist oppression. A recent grotesque example is a New York State Board of Regents study which argues that black students have an innately different "learning style" than white students, including a "tendency to approximate space, number and time instead of aiming for complete accuracy" (*New York Times*, 21 November). The aim of such bald bigotry can only be Jim Crow segregation. When pseudo-scientific racists argue that minorities learn differently, they mean to teach them separately, and *unequally*. An uproar from black educators over the implications of this report prompted the racist Regents to modify it—adding slurs against Hispanics and Asians as well!

College campuses are more segregated than ever, due in part to skyrocketing costs which deny black working-class youth access to higher education. At UW-Madison, black enrollment has dropped to 1.6 percent of the student population. The Spartacus Youth Clubs call for open admissions

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Spartacists call for mobilizing the power of organized labor to smash racist attacks at Columbia University last spring.

Cornell Students Protest JDL Führer

Drive Out Zionist Fascist Kahane!

ITHACA—Fifty students held a picket line at Cornell University November 9 to protest the Zionist stormtrooper Meir Kahane, an ultrarightist Israeli politician and the founder of the racist Jewish Defense League (JDL). Despite a massive cop presence and threats of reprisals by the university administration, the Spartacus Youth Club (SYC), Cornell Radical Union, Palestinian Human Rights Committee, International Socialists Organization and the "Marxist-Leninists of Ithaca" greeted this architect of genocide with chants like "Smash fascist Kahane!" and "Not Jew against Arab, but class against class!"

Kahane, a Brooklyn-born rabbi (who for years tried to "pass" as "Michael King"), in 1968 founded the terrorist JDL which became notorious for attacks on black militants, Arabs and leftists, and bombings of Soviet diplomatic offices. Kahane emigrated to Israel in 1971, where he built a genocidal fascist cult, the Kach party, and was elected to parliament. As the Cornell SYC explained in our 8 November leaflet building for the demonstration:

"Openly campaigning for the expulsion and genocide of Palestinian Arabs from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Golan, Gaza and southern Lebanon as well as the 600,000 Arabs who are Israeli citizens, Kahane's armed thugs, often Jews from the U.S., have terrorized Arab communities and schools. The fascist Kach party has grown rapidly in a country where sadistic police, troops and fanatical 'settlers' armed to the teeth get their Gestapo-like kicks humiliating, beating and killing Arab men, women and children."

In the U.S., if his targets were different, his methods were the same. The *Village Voice* (24 November) notes that "A federal grand jury in Brooklyn is currently probing the JDL in connection with bombings, homicides, extortion and kidnapping..." The *Voice* also reports Justice Department complaints that the Israeli government is obstructing an investigation into JDL terrorism, including the October 1985 pipe-bomb murder of Alex Odeh, an official of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Kahane and his ultrarightist party have a program of genocide—and it's an action program starting right now. After Kahane spoke at Cornell last year, Arab students received death threats, and leaflets calling Arabs "roaches" and "dogs"



Young Spartacus

Cornell University: Spartacus Youth Club played active role in building November 10 protest against JDL Führer Meir Kahane,

appeared all over campus. Yet the *Cornell Daily Sun* and dim civil libertarians lecture that students are obligated to respect this kill-crazy scum's right to "free speech." As the SYC's leaflet replied, "The issue is self-defense against fascist terrorists and organizers for genocide. Drive Kahane off campus!"

"Liberal" Zionists claiming to be opposed to Kahane refused to demonstrate with Palestinians and leftists. They hung around the fringes handing out leaflets encouraging people to protest black Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who was speaking in nearby Syracuse that evening. Farrakhan, a black demagogue who is openly anti-Semitic, shouldn't be underestimated as a threat to Jews and blacks, but neither can he be equated to Kahane, a Zionist state terrorist with blood on his hands. Jewish students who say they oppose Kahane but were too fainthearted to demonstrate against him should ponder what happened in Syracuse: people who claim to be anti-racists protested Farrakhan alongside a fascistic JDL offshoot, the JDO, whose Führer Mordechai Levy announced

plans to show up with an armed goon squad, and threatened every black person who attended Farrakhan's talk. One older black man coolly faced him down: "Look mister, I liberated Belsen in World War II, so don't call me anti-Semitic."

The Cornell demonstrators against Kahane were a united front among different viewpoints. The Palestinian nationalist participants were themselves somewhat heterogeneous. Some vociferously argued, in response to the SYC's leaflet, that joint class struggle of Arab and Hebrew-speaking workers is impossible and that "communist revolution just doesn't apply to the Near East," and even, outrageously, said outright that they opposed the struggle to free Mordechai Vanunu because "he's an Israeli Jew." But others signed petitions circulated by the SYC demanding the immediate release of Vanunu, the courageous nuclear technician who revealed to the world press the massive extent of Israel's nuclear arsenal, which targets the Soviet Union as well as Israel's Arab neighbors. Vanunu has been imprisoned for over a year in soli-

tary confinement and may face the death penalty. We say all humanity is in his debt—Free Mordechai Vanunu!

The SYC's leaflet addressed the question of socialist revolution:

"If they are to have a future, the Hebrew workers must be broken from their Zionist rulers and exploiters and won to the cause of Palestinian national justice.... As Zionism is a deathtrap for Jews so is Palestinian nationalism for the Arabs. When the PLO ranks were heroically battling the U.S.-backed Israeli army in West Beirut, not one Arab ruler lifted a finger to defend them....

"The Arab/Israeli conflict is the product of the historic interpenetration of two peoples on the same territory. The Zionist state was created by their forcible separation through the national expropriation of the Palestinians. There is no just democratic solution under capitalism to the claim of the Hebrew-speaking people and the dispossessed Palestinian people for the right of self-determination. This can only be achieved through a binational Palestine in a socialist federation of the Near East. The urgent need is for an international workers party, a Trotskyist party, to lead the way forward to peace and national justice for all the peoples of the Near East." ■

Reefer Madness in the "High" Court

This election year, instead of a chicken in every pot the politicians can only promise a skeleton in every closet. First, we had a summer of sex and plagiarism among the Democratic Party dwarfs—Gary Hart's allegedly screwing somebody who was not his wife and Joseph Biden's swiping of speeches forced both out of the presidential nomination sweepstakes.

Now, less than a month after Robert Bork's Supreme Court nomination went up in flames in Congress, Reagan and Meese's second nominee, Douglas Ginsburg, went up in smoke over a couple of joints of marijuana.

As right-wingers shrieked in hor-

ror, Reagan swore to support Ginsburg to the bitter end. Attorney General Ed Meese, a law-and-order freak infamous for his belief that anyone charged with a crime must be guilty (now facing the music for his own business shenanigans) inquired, "You tell me that no one appointed to the Supreme Court has ever broken the law?" (*Newsweek*, 16 November). It might have made for interesting Congressional testimony, but Nancy "just said no" and Ginsburg was gone.

The Ginsburg revelations sparked an orgy of confessions from among the remaining hopefuls and their hangers-

on. Democratic presidential candidates Albert Gore and Bruce Babbitt quickly took the "high road," admitting to previous pot use before the press hounds could dig this tidbit up. Gosh—even would-be First Lady Gore has a little weed in her background (if not in her backyard). Once upon a Jefferson Airplane time, she too used to, she admits—but that was before she got religion, or at least decided to make a name for herself as a self-appointed censor of rock and roll lyrics, lest they should be suggestive of illicit substances, especially sex.

Hypocrisy? Sure. Columnist Russell Baker pointed out, "Of the many

amazing things about the latest Supreme Court fiasco, the most amazing is the revelation that there are grown-up people in the United States who have never smoked marijuana" (*New York Times*, 11 November). If the ruling class and their political pimps didn't feel so compelled to play "holier than thou," they wouldn't be in so much of a mess. But lying is the basic coin of bourgeois politics, a handmaiden of the program of exploitation, racism and war. America, after all, is a country where you can be sent off to die in an imperialist war before you're old enough to legally have a drink.

London Subway...

(continued from page 1)

lives with scorched lungs and burns over three-quarters of their bodies. Had the blaze erupted only an hour or two earlier, the death toll would have been ten or a hundred times higher.

This was no accident—it was wanton murder through negligence. The government has deliberately run down the antiquated London underground, slashing its subsidies, "privatising" maintenance and refusing to implement elementary fire detection and prevention measures. And the finger of guilt points straight to the same war criminal who ordered more than 300 young sailors aboard the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* killed in cold blood more than five years ago: Margaret Thatcher, the Ronald Reagan of Britain.

Even Thatcherite tabloids like the

form staff at King's Cross had been axed from 16 to 10 and the cleaning staff from 14 to 2. One maintenance worker who told the press that these old escalators required enormous amounts of grease, making them an obvious firetrap, was promptly warned by management to stop talking to the media. A project to rip out building materials covered with "black asbestos," which burns with ferocity while giving off lethal fumes, was discontinued last August when the money was diverted to "securitise" the station—i.e., to nail impoverished riders who can't pay the exorbitant fares. At the time, contractors were told by a senior LRT official: "It's a gamble, but we just have to pray there won't be a fire until March 1988 when we can start spending on this again" (*Daily Express*, 20 November).

The sole piece of firefighting apparatus on site, a 1928-model manually operated "waterfog" device, was locked behind an oak door off the machinery room beneath the escalator. The station has no emergency exits nor effective

Among those who died was at least one station attendant as well as station officer Colin Townsley of Soho's "Red Watch" fire brigade, a 23-year veteran firefighter. After hearing the screams of passengers trapped below, Townsley decided to go down himself despite ordering his crew to get breathing apparatus first. For days Londoners have turned out to lay flowers for those who died, and particularly for Colin Townsley.

In her ghoulish tour of the disaster area, Thatcher cynically praised the firemen and other rescue workers. This is grotesque hypocrisy—Londoners should probably consider themselves fortunate that there were any firemen there at all, or hospitals to take the victims to. Some 800 London firefighter jobs are to be cut, while University College Hospital, a teaching hospital where most of the emergency patients were treated, is slated for closing. Across the board, the Thatcher government's cutbacks have meant death and destruction.

This was a reference to the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, the channel ferry which capsized last March outside Belgium's Zeebrugge harbour, killing some 134 crew members and passengers. The shipowner violated every known safety regulation, routinely overloading and regularly leaving harbours with loading doors open to cut turnaround times. And like the *Titanic*, to cut costs the ship was constructed with no vertical bulkheads, guaranteeing that it would sink as soon as it took on water. Yet the Thatcher government "inquiry" scapegoated three crew members, refusing to prosecute the company on criminal charges. The *Free Enterprise's* parent company, P&O, owns Bovis Ltd., one of the non-union contractors hired by LRT to make the underground's escalator department more "cost effective".

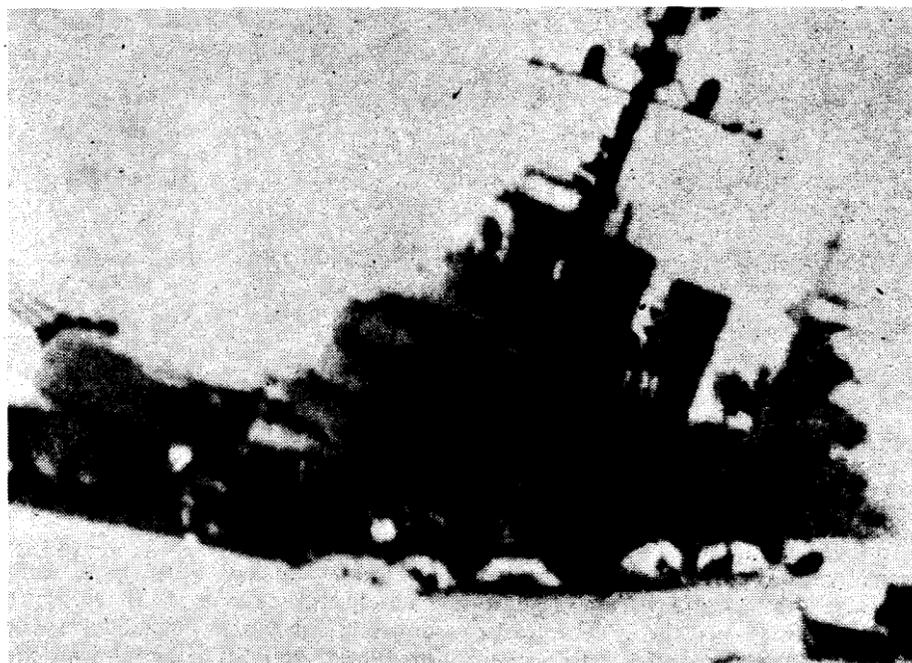
The London tube fire and channel ferry disaster are only the most recent in a series of deadly non-accidents. A year ago 45 oil riggers were killed when their helicopter crashed off the Shetland Islands in the North Sea, the result of known design flaws and lack of maintenance, as the oil magnates leech billions in profits out of the blood of the workforce. Imperialist decay internationally and the decrepit state of British capitalism are directly reflected in this series of disasters as they privatise the profits, "socialise" the losses and bury the victims of this inhuman system. Like Union Carbide at Bhopal, India, their main worry now is how big the insurance claims will be.

For the Thatcher government now to call a "public inquiry" around King's Cross is like calling in the arsonist to investigate the fire. During the Falklands/Malvinas war, the "Iron Lady" sank the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* in an act of sheer vindictive cruelty. Although the British war cabinet knew the *Belgrano* was outside the "war zone" and heading back to port, hundreds of Argentine sailors were sent to an icy grave anyway. The British people are now learning through bitter experience that their lives as well are cheap in the eyes of Thatcher and her henchmen.

The Labour Party will moan about Thatcher's massive budget cuts, and wag their fingers during question time in Parliament. But from waving the Union Jack during the reactionary Falklands/Malvinas war to enacting their own round of cutbacks, these fakers prop up British capitalism. The last Labour government called out the troops against striking firemen and ambulance workers. And Labour leader Neil Kinnock worked overtime to sabotage the powerful year-long miners strike of 1984-85. It will take workers revolution to sweep away the rotting edifice of British capitalism and avenge the manifold crimes of mass murderer Thatcher and her whole criminal class. ■



Press Association



Der Spiegel

Wanted for Murder! "Iron Lady" Thatcher grooved on plunging hundreds of Argentine sailors aboard the *Belgrano* to an icy death in 1982 Falklands/Malvinas war.

Daily Express (20 November) headlined, "They Knew Tube Was a Death Trap." That very day, London Regional Transport (LRT), the government agency which runs the underground system, threatened to discipline King's Cross transport workers for distributing leaflets to passengers warning of fire risks! Also on Wednesday the LRT announced it was slashing several million pounds more in expenditures, including one-third of its escalator improvement budget. In 1984, the heavily trafficked Oxford Circus station was the scene of a major fire.

As a result of Thatcher's vicious cuts in public spending in recent years, plat-

warning system, so even as passengers were trying to flee through entrances which had turned into chimneys, people continued to enter the station as passing trains dropped off passengers. Plans for a new pedestrian tunnel connecting platforms internally had been shelved for "cost considerations," so passengers trapped below were directed up another escalator to the fiery concourse.

But for the heroism of the King's Cross workers and the firefighters who arrived on the scene, the disaster would have been even worse. Scores of nurses and other medical personnel reported to nearby hospitals on their own volition.

On November 13, the British satirical magazine *Private Eye* had sounded the alarm again over conditions in the London tube, citing the "vulgar policy of tarting up stations... as a cosmetic exercise," and warning, "the Underground system continues to degenerate as it is atrociously managed. New lifts and escalators fail to work, nothing is repaired, stations get more and more squalid." In the same issue, a sardonic piece headlined "Channel Ferry Arrives Drama" captured the quality of Thatcher's Britain, crowing that "A cross channel ferry, *The Spirit of Money Making*, today arrived at its destination without any major disaster occurring."

Smash Racist Attacks...

(continued from page 6)

and no tuition with a state-paid living stipend provided to all to make education a right rather than the bastion of race and class privilege it is today. The university administrations, watchdogs of the capitalist state, should be abolished—For student/faculty/worker control of the universities!

At UC Berkeley, more black students are entering the university, but quickly find the "ivory tower" a dungeon for minorities and flee the school in droves. The *San Francisco Examiner* (1 November) reports that the dropout rate for black students is twice that of whites and statistics show the problem is not academic standing. Instead, "student leaders say an increasing number of racist acts—both blatant and subtle—in and out of the classroom have created

an uncomfortable climate for students."

Why is there an upsurge of unbridled racism on the campuses? It's a direct result of government policy, a product of the "Reagan years" (which began under racist Dixiecrat Jimmy Carter), a particularly vicious period of attacks on the union movement and unleashing of cop and Klan terror against minorities. A generation that's been force-fed anti-Soviet "Rambomania" is revved up to kill, kill, kill. But U.S. imperialism's inability to overcome the "Vietnam syndrome" and drag this country into a real war means that would-be Lieutenant Calleys looking for blood are restricted to the domestic front.

The working class, under sustained attack from the bosses and the government, has a powerful objective interest in smashing these racist attacks. In Madison, the Wisconsin Association of Black State Employees has called for immediate action to attack the "cancer" of "institutional racism that exists in Wisconsin today." What's needed is for

students to ally with labor/black power in united class-struggle action to crush the racist thugs. As the Berkeley SYC leaflet noted in response to the "go it alone" attitude of leaders of the African Students Association in the recent protests against resurgent racism:

"A speaker at the October 16 ASA rally said the black student's 'only ally is yourself.' This is dead wrong. During the anti-apartheid protests, students applauded when hundreds of largely black longshoremen, in disciplined formation and dressed in their union jackets, attended a South Africa rally. Organized at the point of production, the working class has the social power to strike at the heart of the capitalist system which breeds racial oppression.... Putting the muscle of [the] integrated, organized working class behind the fight for black freedom is key to the winning strategy of revolutionary integrationism—the assimilation of blacks into an egalitarian socialist society—as opposed to the despairing program of nationalist defeatism which shows no road forward for struggle against racist oppression.... The Spartacus Youth Club seeks to win anti-racist militants to

the side of the working class, to help build the party necessary to lead a socialist revolution. The racist oppression endemic to this society can be eradicated only by overthrowing the capitalist system which breeds it. Smash racist attacks! Black liberation through socialist revolution!" ■

Spartacist League Public Offices

—MARXIST LITERATURE—

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Trotsky...

(continued from page 5)

revolution"? That policy of capitulation was rejected by Lenin in his famous April Theses which reoriented the Bolshevik Party toward the seizure of power by the proletariat. And it was this policy which laid the basis for the unification of Trotsky with Lenin and the great revolutionary events in which Stalin was not present. There is a new book on this, by Robert Slusser, with the expressive title: *Stalin in October: The Man Who Missed the Revolution*.

Stalin's policy in March, of "critical" support to the bourgeois government, was later turned into the Menshevik-Stalinist "strategy" of "two-stage revolution." And in the Spanish Civil War this formula served as the justification for strangling the revolution. But between Stalin's errors and his counter-revolutionary terror of the late 1930s, the so-called *Yezhovshchina*, there was a whole evolution. Beginning with a terrible Civil War which devastated the country [Russia], leaving the proletariat in ruins, having lost tens of thousands of its best fighters. In Europe there was the defeat of the German Revolution of 1923, leaving Soviet Russia isolated, deprived of the support of victorious revolutions in the advanced industrial countries. An anti-revolutionary policy was carried out as Stalin, together with the so-called Triumvirate and supported by a bureaucracy in the process of consolidation, usurped power. On the eve of Lenin's death, in January of 1924, a virtual coup d'état was carried out in the 13th Conference of the Communist Party, manipulating the selection of delegates so as to condemn Trotsky and the Opposition of the 46 with only three negative votes. Soon the anti-socialist thesis of "socialism in one country" was discovered, something even Stalin wouldn't have dreamed of in 1917.

Breaking later with Zinoviev and Kamenev, with whom he sympathized in October 1917, and then with Bukharin in 1928-29, the Stalin faction took over. But that wasn't enough. In the 1934 Conference of the CPSU there was wide sympathy for Kirov, party chief in Leningrad. Stalin had to eliminate another rival, this time killing him, in a murder that, as Trotsky stated, the GPU had to be aware of. They unleashed a terror not only against Trotsky and his family, but also against Stalin's former faction partners. By now there was nothing left of a workers party—it had become simply the governing apparatus of the bureaucracy. And then in the infamous Moscow Trials they piled lies upon monstrous lies to justify the extermination of all that remained of the party that had made the Revolution of 1917. This was applauded by the imperialist press, such as the *New York Times*, and by numerous social-democratic and popular-frontist intellectuals. This bloodbath, among other things, decapitated the Red Army, contributing to the collapse of the Western front in the first days after the Hitlerite invasion in 1941. And it led ultimately to the assassination of Leon Trotsky, in this very house, on 20 August 1940.

These days there are people who are demanding of Gorbachev the rehabilitation of Trotsky. Emanating from England there is a petition campaign which has collected the signatures of well-known personalities in the Labour Party, and is pushed by various ostensibly Trotskyist tendencies. In fact, a couple of days ago, after Gorbachev's anti-Trotskyist diatribe, they turned in a petition to the embassy of the USSR here in Mexico. *But Trotsky and the Old Bolsheviks don't need to be rehabilitated.* Already 50 years ago, the Dewey Commission definitively unmasked the Moscow Trials frame-ups, and ever since Khrushchev's secret speech in 1956 nobody believes anymore that Trotsky

2¢ **TRUTH**
ABOUT THE MOSCOW TRIALS
NEW YORK, N.Y. APRIL 1957

TROTSKY BARES MOSCOW FRAUD

John Dewey Heads Mexico Inquiry

Noted Publicists Hear Trotsky; Stalinists Fear To Face Issue

HE DOES NOT CONFESS! ONLY TRUTH CAN UNMASK FRAME-UP



Leon Trotsky

GPU Dragnet Closes On Bukharin, Rykov



Trotsky doesn't need "rehabilitation"! American Trotskyists published truth about Moscow Trials frame-up (left). Trotsky testifying in Mexico before 1937 Dewey Commission, which definitively exposed Stalin's monstrous lies.

was the agent of the Mikado, the Führer and the King of England, nor that Bukharin, Zinoviev/Kamenev and Tukhachevsky were Nazi spies. So that today the Stalinist slanders against Trotsky and the other Bolshevik leaders *discredit the bureaucracy*. And therefore, the Kremlin chiefs are seeking to *rehabilitate themselves*.

Can the assassins rehabilitate their victims? Never! Calling on the Kremlin to "rehabilitate" Trotsky—who committed no crime, and therefore doesn't need a pardon from his executioners—implies that the Great Purges were the crazed acts of one lone man and not the work of a bureaucracy sitting atop the foundations of a proletarian state, albeit bureaucratically degenerated, and which can only keep its power and privileges by means of lies. It also implies a perspective of self-reform by this bureaucracy, and abandoning the struggle for an independent Leninist-Trotskyist leadership, the key element in sweeping out the usurpers and returning Russia to the road of October. Stalin exterminated the Bolshevik Old

appearance, but not the reality, of a true workers democracy. This contradictory process doesn't represent a slow process of self-reform of the bureaucracy, but rather the appearance of centrifugal forces and increasingly sharp polarization. A genuine socialist renewal in the land of the Bolshevik Revolution requires a proletarian political revolution, restoring soviet democracy, reorganizing the economic plan in the interests of the working people, and taking up again true proletarian internationalism.

Stalin gave the planned economy a bad name. And the market-oriented reforms go against the interests of the workers. There have already been the first work stoppages—they don't dare use the word "strike" yet—in the Soviet Union: truck workers in the Kamaz factory, bus drivers in Chekhov near Moscow. There is justified resistance to a policy which slashes wages and threatens to bring back unemployment. The planned economy, even in the brutal form it was implemented by Stalin at the last minute, has made it possible for the

among them a Che Guevara Brigade. Out of this meeting came a Federation of Socialist Clubs. And although its program is a mixture of elements taken from the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks, the demand to open the archives, if it is carried out, would provide the possibility of seeing that in fact the policy not only of Stalin but also of his heirs, including Gorbachev himself, is not that of the Bolsheviks of Lenin's time. It's not surprising, therefore, that there are rumors of the burning of large quantities of archives. Instead of calling for "rehabilitation" of Trotsky, we demand that his works be published.

And finally, *For the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism and internal counterrevolution!* When the lid is lifted after six decades of total repression, you find everything, including openly anti-Semitic and fascist groups, such as *Pamyat*, or Memory, an association which seeks to combine the worst aspects of the religious obscurantism of the Russian Orthodox Church together with the excrescences of Stalinism, under the protection of elements of the bureaucracy, including its highest levels. At the same time, the Soviet Union faces the relentless, insistent pressure of imperialism which seeks to "roll back" revolutions from Nicaragua and Afghanistan to East Europe and the Soviet Union itself. Sacrificing the Nicaraguan Revolution, abandoning Afghanistan to the mullahs financed and supplied by the CIA, on the altar of a mythical détente with Yankee imperialism would be a blow against the defense of the Soviet Union itself.

From Kabul, where the Muslim feudalists kill teachers for the "crime" of teaching young girls to read, to Managua, where Reagan's contras kill teachers, health workers and agrarian reform specialists, defense of the USSR means a militant defense of the conquests already made and their international extension.

I would like to end with a quote from Leopold Trepper, a heroic Soviet spy and head of the Red Orchestra which did such valuable intelligence work under the Nazi boot. They warned of the German invasion of June 1941, although Stalin ignored it because he believed in his pact with Hitler. When Trepper was jailed by Stalin after the Second World War, he wrote in his memoirs:

"Who protested? The Trotskyites can lay claim to this honor... they fought Stalinism to the death, and they were the only ones who did...."

"Today, the Trotskyites have a right to accuse those who once howled along with the wolves. Let them not forget, however, that they had the enormous advantage over us of having a coherent political system capable of replacing Stalinism. They had something to cling to in the midst of their profound distress at seeing the revolution betrayed. They did not 'confess,' for they knew that their confession would serve neither the party nor socialism."

Return to the road of Lenin and Trotsky! ■



Lenin and Trotsky, the leaders of the 1917 October Revolution.

Guard, and in particular the Trotskyist Left Opposition, for the same reason he decapitated the Spanish Revolution—to carry out his program of class collaboration with the imperialist bourgeoisie through the so-called "Popular Front." And only by means of a tenacious struggle for the program of Lenin and Trotsky can we put in their true place the heroes of the October Revolution.

What is happening in the Soviet Union today is highly contradictory. On the one hand, by means of *perestroika* they are carrying out market-oriented economic reforms, thereby undermining the planned economy which is one of the fundamental conquests of the Revolution. Internationally they are seeking to conciliate imperialism, hoping to obtain an "arms control" pact and more generally to achieve a modus vivendi with imperialism. But at the same time, and in part in order to make the economic restructuring digestible, they have undertaken a policy of *glasnost*, so-called openness, in order to give the

USSR to make the gigantic leap from a peasant country to one of the great industrial and military powers of the world in the space of a few decades. It has created an economy with jobs for all, with free education and medical care, where there may be food shortages but not hunger, as in Latin America today and even for 20 million Americans. Economic planning must be freed from bureaucratic distortions, to introduce centralized planning with soviet democracy.

The Soviet archives belong to the Soviet peoples—Open the history books! This is another fundamental demand of the political revolution which is widely shared in the Soviet Union today. In contrast to what happened in Poland some years ago with the rise of Solidarność, a "union" for the Pope, President Reagan and Wall Street, in the USSR the dominant tendency is to look for a return to Lenin. In August, there was a meeting in Moscow representing hundreds of leftist circles:

Reagan...

(continued from page 1)

breath, but facing certain defeat in Congress the administration withdrew its \$270 million contra aid request. A tax increase would only be enacted over his dead body, said Mr. Supply-Side Economics, yet here he is negotiating one with the Democrats. And after promising to give the liberals another Supreme Court nominee they would hate just as much, now he's nominated "pragmatic conservative" Anthony Kennedy. This is a dead duck administration which has been replaced by a Democratic caretaker government. But the remnants of the Reagan gang are still there, including the living corpse in the Oval Office.

The latest rumors are of a Thanksgiving pardon by Reagan of the key members of the National Security Council junta, including North and Poindexter. But what about Ed Meese, currently under investigation by two grand juries? As the nation's premier gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson wrote, "In a generation of swine, Ed Meese from Oakland has somehow emerged as the boss pig" (*San Francisco Examiner*, 16 November). A pardon for the nation's "top cop"—even Nixon would've had trouble with that! Squirm as they might, they're in "deep doo-doo" (in the memorable phrase of George Bush).

With the American public consistently and decidedly opposed to any U.S. military intervention in Central



MacNelly/Chicago Tribune

America (witness the inventory of unsold Ollie North dolls stacked up in warehouses), the Democrats decided they had better do something to implement the Arias "peace" plan before Reagan hamhandedly provoked a revolutionary upsurge throughout the Central American tinderbox. So while Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz look on, House Democratic Speaker Jim Wright has been engaged in his own version of shuttle diplomacy. He helped Daniel Ortega craft an 11-point cease-fire proposal, then brought the Sandinista leader and the contra cardinal Obando y Bravo together in the papal nunciatura to discuss it. One Republican Senator complained that Wright's actions, making an end run

around the White House and sidestepping the State Department, were "at best unseemly and at worst unconstitutional" (*Time*, 23 November). But outside the White House, nobody cared very much about the constitutionality of it all.

Meanwhile the Democrats are working feverishly to outdo the Reaganites on the need for austerity in the aftermath of the Wall Street crash. The old New Deal politics of "guns and butter" has given way to more guns and no butter. But once again they have the American population to reckon with. The anti-Soviet war drive has been bipartisan policy from the start, but it has never caught on with the electorate, despite all the Rambo hype. American military

intervention in Nicaragua has been consistently opposed by two-thirds of the population, not even one American in ten is for a tax increase, and the vast majority oppose the reactionary "social agenda" of the immoral minority in and around the White House.

For six years, the Reagan administration larded it over the unions, blacks, women, gays, immigrants, the aged—all the vast majority of the American people these deeply ingrained racist reactionaries so contemptuously dismiss as "special interests." As long as the givebacks flowed and the Dow Jones rose, the bourgeoisie turned a blind eye to the pervasive corruption and incompetence of the Reagan gang. Now when they're in trouble, it's high time for the multimillion victims of Reagan reaction to turn the tables. As the Spartacist League noted in our recent conference document, "Toward Revolutionary Conjunction" (adopted September 1987):

"The grotesque self-destruction of this rabidly right-wing regime will doubtless encourage workers to resist give-back unionism and blacks to resist racist attacks. However, the present period of a crippled right-wing government is necessarily transient, while the Democrats and their labor lieutenants will work overtime to channel opposition to 'Reaganism' into electoralism from now through November 1988. Our perspective is mobilizing the victims of the Reagan regime—centrally the organized workers movement and the black and Hispanic poor—against bourgeois reaction at its base while the upper echelons of the government are in some disarray and the right is demoralized."

Forge a fighting workers party to bring down Reagan and the Democrats!

Chicago...

(continued from page 12)

Among those present were 16 executive board members from Cassandra's own Local 241, as well as ATU International vice president Jackie Breckenridge. When Seay and Bryant approached the bench with their attorney Loraine Ray, the transit unionists staged a powerful silent show of solidarity inside the courtroom, as everyone stood up. Cassandra later told *WV*, "When I turned around and saw everybody standing there, I couldn't believe it. It was really an exciting moment." One of the cops in the courtroom who carried out the attack on Cassandra turned beet red. Callie Bryant remarked, "They weren't wearing smirks this time."

Judge Leo Holt ordered a continuance in the case to December 22; after the prosecutor announced that not all their witnesses (i.e., the cops) were present. An enthusiastic round of

applause greeted Cassandra Seay when she emerged from the courtroom. One ATU member said, "It'll be bigger next time—let's bring 1,000 people!" In a short sidewalk rally, Jackie Breckenridge told Cassandra's supporters, "On the 22nd, we have to be back here, so that means bring as many people in uniforms as you can, and your friends and your family!" Supporters collected money to continue the campaign—over \$500 was pledged.

The turnout today was a powerful show of support. But the masters of the Chicago "injustice" system think they can slip this frame-up through at Christmastime. The Spartacist League calls on Chicago labor and blacks to mobilize on December 22 to bury this racist outrage for good!

Support Pours In for Cassandra

Already the Cassandra Seay case has attracted wide labor support. Telegrams have poured in from unions around the U.S., and even from Britain. As Callie Bryant said of today's mobi-



WV Photo

Defend the Seay family! From left: Cassandra's sons D'artagnan and David, her mother Callie Bryant, Cassandra and daughter Wendy.

lization, "I think really what did it was that there was a multiracial group there showing support. I think that had more impact than just the people themselves."

From the San Francisco Bay Area, 119 members of Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 250-A at MUNI transit sent state's attorney Richard Daley a telegram protesting the legal lynching of Seay. Trade unionists in five other Bay Area unions followed suit, including IBEW, ILWU, UAW and CWA members. In New York, one hundred TWU Local 100 subway workers sent a protest to Daley, as did ATU members and officials in Atlanta and Philadelphia who were outraged at the attack on their sister and her family. UAW Local 719, at the GM Electromotive Division plant outside Chicago, wired a protest, and the president of AFSCME Local 100, representing Cleveland city employees, fired off an angry letter.

From Britain, there were protests from 35 bus drivers in Sheffield and 42 trade unionists in London Transport, demanding the charges be dropped. They noted that "We in Britain are all too familiar with police victimisation of the minority black, Asian and Irish communities." Both the Bay Area Labor Black League and the New York Labor Black League for Social Defense

sent telegrams of protest. A letter from the Partisan Defense Committee condemned Daley for charging "the victims of this brutal attack with assault" and demanded all charges be dropped.

Seay didn't face Chicago's racist courts alone because transit workers demanded their union come to her defense. Scores of ATU members in Locals 241 and 308 signed a motion put forward by militants in the union, calling for integrated working-class power to stop this racist frame-up. As a result of this pressure from the ranks, both locals posted a call throughout the city for members to show up today.

The efforts of black women bus drivers were key in bringing out transit workers for the trial. Two days before the courthouse mobilization, workers met to build for the defense at the Gentle Persuasion, a popular South Side lounge. Among those present were women drivers who led the successful struggle to smash the racist frame-up of bus driver David Johnson in 1985. Kevin Quirk, one of the transit militants who initiated today's union mobilization, pointed to the Johnson defense as the kind of labor/black power that's needed to bust the bosses' anti-labor, racist offensive. Breckenridge also spoke, recalling that in 1965 it took mass action to free his wife from a

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PRESS RELEASE

We are reporting a violent incident which contradicted the democratic principles of establishing justice and promoting the welfare of American children.

The principal and a 12 year old student of the Lower East Side International Community School were arrested November 6, 1987.

Five police officers and two detectives from the local 7th Precinct insisted on entering the school to arrest a minor aged student who allegedly assaulted and robbed three male students after school hours in the streets on the previous day. When the principal refused their entrance citing her constitutional rights and responsibility to protect the students in the school who are minors, she was beaten, handcuffed and forcibly removed from the school premises. These officers and plainclothesmen detectives pro-

ceeded to enter the building in search of the minor aged alleged perpetrator.

Approximately 30 or more police officers invaded the building using terrorist tactics without recognizing the teaching staff, went from class to class, subsequently arresting a twelve-year old girl, handcuffing her and forcibly removing her from the school and taking her to the 7th Precinct jail.

Justice must be administered in this uncalled violent, traumatic disruption of this school with minor aged students. Parents confidence must be restored that the principal of LESICS or any other school will not be prevented from fulfilling the administrator's responsibility to protect the rights and welfare of our children entrusted to the school's care.



WV Photo

Courageous LESICS school principal Wallie Simpson was beaten and seized by racist NYPD for defending her students. LESICS issued a press release (left) on November 16 and marched on City Hall the next day to protest cop terror.

NYC School...

(continued from page 12)

the building, she was arrested, handcuffed, and dragged by her hair into a police car and then jailed for 40 minutes without any charges being filed. A 12-year-old girl, accused of fighting and stealing belongings of boys at a neighboring school, was hauled out of her classroom and carted off to jail as classmates looked on in horror.

At a press conference November 16, parents and students denounced the police invasion of their school. Mae McGill, who has three children attending LESICS, said angrily: "we have our principal beaten, teachers threatened and our children frightened out of their wits—afraid to go to school for fear that 'those men with guns and clubs might come back'." Another parent, Ron Gibbs, stated: "We are deeply angered and outraged over the physical abuse and psychological rape which was com-

mitted against our principal and our children in this institution. We are sick and tired of this Rambo type of police activity.... In South Africa you have legalized Rambo police raids. Enough is enough." PTA head Helene Lumumba asked, "Who do we complain to? Certainly not the police."

The children were terrified. Eleven-year-old Faraji Boddie described how a uniformed cop barged into his sixth-grade classroom without knocking, as a boy pointed out two girls who were then taken away without explanation. "Everyone in the class was scared because we didn't know why they were there, if one of us would be called out next, or where they were taking the girls and why." Faraji's brother Fadaiba was chased by four cops. Genard Howard was walking down the hall when three cops came up to him. "One of them grabbed me by the collar. A second policeman pulled me away from the first policeman and he threw me up against the wall. He said, 'get out of the way.' My back was hurt. I was

scared because I thought they would continue to hurt me."

To underscore the police racism, after the November 16 press conference, Kenyan long-distance runner Ibrahim Hussein was surrounded by cops and detectives who wouldn't let him leave the school, demanding to know his itinerary. Hussein recently won the New York marathon, the first black ever to do so, and had come to greet the kids at LESICS as part of a citywide tour. But while he has received a hero's welcome from black New York, ABC-TV refused to show him crossing the finish line!

At the November 17 City Hall demonstration, LESICS principal Simpson insisted that parents and children "must feel secure and know that at any given moment outside forces cannot come in and disrupt the school." Noted black attorney C. Vernon Mason called for the firing of all those responsible for the cop riot, all the way up to Koch's black police commissioner Benjamin Ward, saying: "No more invasions of our schools. No more Howard Beaches."

Mason, himself a target of cop harassment for defending the surviving victims of that racist lynching, has been retained as legal counsel for the school and a civil suit is expected to be filed shortly.

In a city where the public schools have been turned into segregated prisons, Wallie Simpson stressed to WV that LESICS has offered children a full range of courses including five foreign languages from French to Japanese and Swahili, and a culturally diverse curriculum. Taking their cue from racist pig mayor Koch, the cops figured they could ride roughshod over the school, from the principal down to pre-kindergarten tots. But the parents who send their kids to LESICS care too much about their children to take this lying down. Mae McGill vowed that "We, the parents, teachers and concerned citizens will not let these acts go unpunished and we will not be brushed aside." Stand with the LESICS students, their teachers and parents—Keep the cops out of our schools! ■

Ku Klux Klan kidnapping.

In the days before the trial, more than 300 Chicago transit workers bought copies of the latest *Workers Vanguard*, with the back-page article "Chicago Labor Must Fight Racist Cop Terror!" In some bus barns drivers posted WV on bulletin boards alongside the official union call. At the Limits garage one union member wrote next to the masthead: "Try to be there. This could happen to our family. She along with her family needs our support."

Smash Racist Terror in Segregation City

Workers' solidarity with Cassandra and her family is fueled by deep anger at years of racist cop and Klan terror in Segregation City USA. Installing black Democratic Party mayor Harold Washington has done nothing to stop the nightriders in white sheets or blue uniforms. Washington was put in to derail struggles by black and working people, to shove the bipartisan austerity budget down their throats. Himself a target of the Klan/Nazi terrorists and hated by the notoriously racist Chicago cops, Washington betrays black Chicago as part of the racist, anti-labor Democratic Party. The fight against cop and Klan terror must be part of the fight to forge a class-struggle workers party,

which can lead black and working people to victory.

The wave of terror by the nightriders in blue against working people and ghetto poor has emboldened the Klan and Nazi scum. Even as Local 308 was voting on November 10 to mobilize for the trial, a gang of Nazi trash evoked Hitler's *Kristallnacht*, shattering store windows and painting swastikas in a North Side Jewish neighborhood. When labor/black Chicago smashes the racist frame-up against Cassandra, it will be a victory for all the victims of cop and fascist terror in Chicago.

The Seay case has struck a deep chord. After years of Reagan reaction, the cowboy in the White House is now a stumbling loser, serving out his term only because he is propped up by the Democrats. Transit workers and other unionists who have had giveback contracts and mass layoffs shoved down their throats by the union tops and their "friend of labor" Democrats now see a chance to win—for Cassandra, her family and for all working people. What's necessary to reverse these attacks is hard-hitting, integrated class struggle. The heavily black and Hispanic ATU locals, along with other integrated unions like the teachers, are strategically placed mass organizations capable of welding the working class

and ghetto poor into a powerful movement against capitalist oppression.

As ATU Local 241 militant Kevin Quirk said: "For seven long years now we've seen Reagan and the racist ruling class in this country beating down the just struggles of working people and minorities in this country much in the same way that those vicious, racist cops kicked and beat Cassandra and her mother last July 21. What we need today is for labor to fight back against Rea-

gan, against the rulers of this country, against their racist police and courts which uphold the whole system of capitalist oppression." Chicago labor: Fight racist cop terror! All out for Cassandra Seay on December 22!

We urge WV readers to contribute to the defense of the Seay family. Checks should be made out to: Cassandra Seay and Callie Bryant, c/o Loraine Ray, Attorney at Law, 1120 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657. ■

WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League

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WORKERS VANGUARD

Chicago Transit Workers Protest Racist Cop Frame-Up

Defend Cassandra Seay!

CHICAGO, November 24—Seventy transit unionists and their supporters packed the courtroom and spilled into the halls of Cook County Circuit Court this morning, determined to stop the racist frame-up of black bus driver Cassandra Seay, her mother Callie Bryant and her two sons. Victims of a vicious beating by seven cops who invaded their home last July 21, Seay and her family now face trumped-up charges, including assault on a police officer, with possible sentences of up to 15 years in prison.

As Cassandra and her family arrived at the courthouse, they were greeted by members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Locals 241 (bus) and 308 (rail), chanting, "Free Cassandra Seay! Drop the Charges Now!" The transit militants carried signs reading "Old Rope, New Tree—Stop the Frame-Up!" "Drop the Charges Against Cassandra and Her Family!" and "How Long Does It Take for the Madness to End?" Before entering the courtroom Cassandra thanked her supporters and gave a short interview to the press including three TV stations and the *Chicago Defender*.

The fifth floor courtroom was jammed with ATU members, most of them black, dressed in Chicago Transit Authority uniforms or union jackets. Many waited in the hallway, unable to find even standing room in the aisles.

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Cassandra Seay (center) and her mother, Callie Bryant (in hat), surrounded by supporters from Chicago transit unions outside courthouse, November 24. WV Photo

Principal Seized, Children Terrorized

Cops Invade NYC School

A lot of New Yorkers are outraged over a blatant act of police terror against the children and principal of the Lower East Side International Community School (LESICS) in Manhattan. On November 17, almost 100 out of the 160 students at LESICS, accompanied by parents and school principal Wallie Simpson, marched from the school to City Hall where they sat on the steps chanting, "We want education, stop police invasion!" and "Up with education, down with Koch!" We call on NYC labor and minorities to join them in protesting the racist cop riot which left their school in an uproar and the young students traumatized.

On the morning of Friday, November 6, some 30 cops rampaged through the small private school, whose predominantly working-class student population of pre-kindergartners to eighth-graders is 90 percent black. Students were chased and pulled out of classrooms without explanation; one student was slammed against a wall. When principal Simpson attempted to consult the school's attorney before admitting a contingent of armed cops into

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The latest victims of NYC cop terror—defenseless minority schoolchildren terrorized in their classrooms. WV Photo