

# Bring Down Reagan!

By KEVIN FITZPATRICK

A year and a half after he came into office, Ronald Reagan is in more and more trouble every day. All the sections of the population that represent the future — the workers, youth, national minorities, etc. — hate him and want him out. The question is how to do it.

### Crisis

We're not just talking about his low figures in the popularity polls, either. Far more than was the case with Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter — all of whom would essentially be driven from office — the problem of the Reagan presidency is the mobilization of the working class in the Americas — from Canada to Argentina.

And, naturally, it is in the US that the working class struggle affects Reagan the most.

The recent resignation of Alexander Haig as Secretary of State is an open sign of this crisis of the Reagan administration. Everyone is trying to pass it off as a question of personalities and power struggles in the White House, but it reflects the fact that US imperialism is increasingly isolated.

The US can't "send in the Marines" to El Salvador, as it could in the Dominican Republic as recently as 1965. Each time it backs an imperialist adventure — Britain against Argentina, Israel's invasion of Lebanon — it finds itself in more, not less, trouble.

These examples and others flow from the fight of the workers of the Americas in particular. The workers and peasants of Central America are waging armed struggle against imperialism. In Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Brazil the workers are in open struggle against their US-installed dictatorships.

In the United States itself there is massive opposition to imperialist rearmament and war, as well as a growing class struggle opposition to the Reagan regime.

In 1946, James P. Cannon, the founder of American Trotskyism, described a situation that sheds light on what is going on today:

Trotsky explained brilliantly in his speech at the Third World Congress of the Comintern, it is neither (economic — KF) crises nor prosperity that revolutionizes the working class, but the constant and abrupt changes. From steady work and the habitude of fairly good standards of living, a sudden crisis throws them out of work, they are hungry, cannot find food for their families; then they go through a period of revival of industry, and they go into that revival of industry with all that resentment upon them and they translate their resentment in the form of strikes and union organization. And then another crisis. It is the constant changes, the insecurity of American capitalism, that is the Marxist guarantee of the rapid revolutionization of the American working class. *And from that everything depends on the party.*

("Summary Speech on 'The American Theses,'" in *The Struggle for Socialism in the 'American Century,'* p. 313; emphasis in quotation is ours.)

### Mobilization

All proportions guarded, we are now in a situation like the one that was aborted by Stalinist betrayal of the European Revolution after World War II.

The rapid revolutionization of the American workers is underway. It finds its sharpest expression in the increasing failure of the pro-imperialist trade union bureaucracy — which fastened itself into power after the war — to be able to control the workers.

The open fight in the UAW against the

remnants of the Reuther machine, the developing struggle in the Steelworkers and Mine Workers, indicates that a split from the bureaucracy is underway in the unions.

And this is the key to the developing strike wave. Only two months ago, all the "experts" — journalists-for-hire, tame radicals, union hacks, imperialist economists — hailed as "the wave of the future" the policy of concessions that was sealed by the auto contracts. But, in the last two months, that wave has crashed on the rocks of the class struggle.

Beginning with the near rejection of the GM contract, a massive movement is developing to shatter precisely the concessions drive. This upsurge is already visible in the statistics, and they always lag behind the reality.

The American Standard strike meant not concessions, but gains, for electrical workers in Pennsylvania. Other strikes have shown militant methods in development, as well as defeating concessions.

This upsurge of the American workers is, in a fundamental sense, irreversible. It is part of the rising movement of the world revolution, an extension of the European Revolution that began with Poland. There can be setbacks on this road, there may be defeats of a local and specific nature, but the movement will develop until there is a decisive settling of accounts.

### Down with Reagan!

And that means settling Reagan's hash.

## The Elections and the Workers Party

We stand at the beginning of a new upsurge of the working class, which is already taking the statistically verifiable form of a strike wave. Through intervening in the 1982 elections, we can develop that struggle toward a *political goal*, to a major advance toward the Workers Party.

We can see this even more clearly when we look in greater detail at what is actually going on in the unions. It is still in its first stages, and its level varies from union to union, but the mobilization is taking shape as a fight to break with the pro-imperialist trade union bureaucracy: Fraser, McBride, Church, Williams, etc.

The underlying dynamic of this fight is that it is no longer possible for the unions to be tied to imperialism and its state and still represent in any way the needs of the workers.

Take, for example, the burning issue of concessions, which is at the heart of the recent strike upsurge. If you were to look at it in the air, the question of being for or against them would seem to be confined to an internal union matter, just one more question of contracts, wages and hours, etc. But, in the real world, this fight against concessions means an opposition directly to the imperialist state, to a policy orchestrated by the White House and aimed at throwing the workers and the oppressed back half a century.

The forces leading the fight against Fraser in the UAW are still very half-hearted (and the forces in other unions are even less clear), but they have been forced into fighting the sancrosanct "administration caucus" by forces beyond their control, by something they grasp only dimly — the rising tide of the class struggle.

We have already said in *Truth* what the goals have to be: Special Convention of the UAW, General Strike, Workers Party. These are immediate questions and the



This government is a government of counterrevolution, a government out to take back all the gains of the workers and oppressed. Between the rising movement of the working class and the desperate reaction of Reagan a confrontation is inevitable. There is, as there was just before the Civil War, an "irrepressible conflict" between the two forces.

All the strikes, first of all, as well as all the other movements of the youth and the oppressed, are already directed against Reagan in action. The question is to centralize them and give them a political direction — *Down with Reagan!*

The General Strike is the method that can not only bring down Reagan, but open

up a whole new political situation in this country.

But we will not attain this General Strike through a simple organizational centralization of the existing strikes. This centralization must have a political axis. The situation is ripe, but it is not even the strike wave that decides. "From that," as Cannon said, "everything depends on the party."

In this mobilization our goal has to be to build the Workers Party as the organizing center of the political class independence of the workers. On this basis, on this basis alone, the strikes can find their necessary conclusion in the General Strike and the opening up of the revolution.

1982 elections can help to pose them in that way. We have to bring the break with imperialism and its agents that is already underway into the elections, which in this country are one of the few ways that many people ever think about politics.

In the first place, it would mean taking the struggle out of the confines of trade unionism, where Fraser and the rest would like to keep it, and bringing it onto the much broader and more accessible political stage. This movement, which wants to find an independent expression, can find it best, can move most quickly toward becoming a *social movement* (like Solidarnosc in Poland), by leading a fight that will rally all the oppressed and the discontented in this country.

And that really is what is at stake. That is the reason for all the anti-Reagan demagoguery of the Democrats at their "mid-term convention." Shall we leave the field to them or seize it for ourselves?

Secondly, and even more importantly, it will raise the question of a break with imperialism and its agents to the level of its most bitter expression.

In no other imperialist country, and in very few other countries, are the workers tied to parties that represent their class enemies. The greatest scabbing of the trade union bureaucracy has been its work to support the two-party (imperialist) system, in particular the Democratic Party, in this country.

A fight for workers candidates, for *candidates of the unions*, on platforms that reflect the needs and demands of the workers and their allies, means a fight for working class candidates *independent* of the two capitalist parties. In other words, it would be a key step toward political independence, toward the Workers Party.

Even in legal terms, it is still not "too late" to organize union candidates for the

upcoming elections. If the power of the workers that is already expressed in strikes is harnessed it can sweep aside all the barriers.

All the union groups that have already begun to take the road of the break with the bureaucracy should take up this fight. The locals that belong to LOC (Locals Opposed to Concessions) and to the "un-sanctioned" aub-council movement can run candidates alone or together. How about the United Front Caucus in Local 600 (Ford River Rouge)? How about the opposition locals and groups in the United Steelworkers and the United Mine Workers?

Some "socialist" groups, most importantly the pseudo-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and the Stalinist Communist Party (CP), are running candidates this year.

The SWP's "socialist propaganda and educational campaigns" are a conscious evasion of and obstacle to the real fight in the unions for workers candidates.

The CP's "Communist candidates," besides being only a sop to its left wing, in reality are only the "propaganda" face of open class-collaboration, of its support to "anti-Reaganite" Democrats.

We must confront these organizations with the fight for union candidates. They must be compelled to subordinate "their" candidates to the working class and its organizations, by agreeing to submit them to ratification by fighting union bodies or even by withdrawing in favor of union candidates, including giving these candidates their spot on the ballot.

This fight to centralize and advance the upsurge in the class struggle toward building the Workers Party is what the Trotskyist Organization is proposing and taking up around the elections.

K.F.

# For the Trotskyist Conference in Lima!

By DAVID HEFFELFINGER

On July 17-18 the Trotskyist Organization/USA, (sympathizing) section of the Fourth International, will hold its Seventh National Conference. The period since our last National Conference has been one of the most fruitful in terms of the political advances made and lessons learned, and in terms of concrete advances, especially the construction of International Young Guard/USA.

## Trotskyist Conference

In the Eighth World Congress of the Fourth International, a struggle was led to convince the International and all of its sections to prepare for the deepening of the proletarian revolution opened up in Poland and to build the party necessary to lead it. In the course of the Congress, a proposal to build a Trotskyist Conference in the Americas was proposed but not adopted. However, during the mobilization for the Hamburg Rally, the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International proposed the building of a Trotskyist Conference in Lima, Peru, to rebuild the sections of the Fourth International in Latin America and the United States, and to build a section of the Fourth International in El Salvador, in the heart of the revolution.

Our Seventh National Conference has the task of opening up the mobilization for this important objective.

*For the revolutionary unity of the proletariats of North and South America!*

*Build the sections of the Fourth International!*

*For the Trotskyist Conference in Lima!*

The acceleration of the revolution in the Americas underscores the immediacy and the gravity of the fight to construct the revolutionary leadership in North and South America.

The Polish spring has arrived, and the May Day demonstrations in many central cities of Poland showed what the Fourth International has been saying all along — the Polish Revolution has entered its second and most decisive stage, that of the confrontation with the Kremlin tanks and the struggle for power. The dimensions of this confrontation will be global in their scope.

But already, before the Polish spring has yet developed into an all-out confrontation with the Stalinist bureaucrats, the pace of the revolution is quickening in South and Central America and in the heart of imperialism itself, the United States.

In Argentina, the policy of British and US imperialism is in tatters. The military junta, which the United States installed in power and supported, and which Reagan tried to incorporate into his plans to crush the revolution in Central America (before the Malvinas war, Argentina had served as a training base for CIA counterrevolutionary squads used in Central America) is clearly not going to survive its desperate military adventure.

## In the Americas

The Fourth International placed itself without conditions on the side of Argentina against British and US imperialism. But, what is more important, the Argentine masses realize that for the junta the war in the Malvinas was just a bloody and desperate maneuver to divert the rising mobilization against the junta. Now the masses are in the streets once again.

And it is worth mentioning that British

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, one of Reagan's staunchest allies, has not profited by this war, either. She now faces a major investigation of the Malvinas war and a National Railway strike which threatens to turn into a general strike.

At the same time, in the United States both the pro-imperialist trade union bureaucracy and the framework of concessions that seemed so firmly entrenched to some only months ago are being rejected. There is a split developing in one of the most important trade unions in the United States, the United Auto Workers, which is a clear expression of an attempt to transform the union into a weapon of the workers. And, directly connected to the movement in the trade unions, there is a new strike wave going on.

The development of this movement in the trade unions is directly linked to the crisis of US imperialism around the world and the development of the revolution, not least of the revolution in Central America.

The policy of the Reagan government around the elections in El Salvador has been shown to be based on massive vote fraud, corruption and intimidation. Reagan's policy in Central America is going to become directly linked to the mobilization that is going on inside the trade unions, as the working class already rejects Reagan's support of the war in El Salvador, and now is beginning to forge their unions into weapons of its own against Reagan.

## The Party

It has been the Fourth International alone that has predicted these develop-

ments, and hence has prepared them and is preparing them today. In the first months of 1982, *Truth*, the newspaper of the Trotskyist Organization, predicted that the new framework of concessions in the union agreements would only lay the basis for a new explosion of the class struggle, one which is taking place today.



The Trotskyist Conference will be a battle against the apparatuses and the opportunists in the working class who are trying to block the advance of the revolution and the opportunists who live in the shadow of

Stalinism.

The Communist Party USA is even now preparing a major campaign to support Democratic candidates in the 1982 elections, giving support to a party that in the current situation might not be able to find support otherwise. And the Kremlin's faithful agent in the Americas, Fidel Castro, stepped in to try to give the Argentine junta something to fall back on, his support for this "transformed" dictatorship supposedly now defending the interests of the oppressed.

We could go on endlessly, because with each new blow of the revolution a new crack is opened in the already fractured foundations of the Stalinists and the opportunists. But, essentially, the Trotskyist Conference will not be prepared through discussions and polemics with the pseudo-Trotskyists, rather it fundamentally is going to be based, as the mobilization for Hamburg was, on the independent organization of the working class youth, their forging as leaders of the workers struggles, through the construction of the Workers Party. In this sense, the struggle against the opportunists lies in the organization of the workers' struggles and the construction of the Workers Party.

This will be the fight that the Seventh National Conference must prepare. We call on our readers, and the workers and youth who have fought with us, to join this struggle to build the leadership of the revolution in the Two Americas.

*Build the Workers Party!*

*Join the Trotskyist Organization!*

## The Rouge and the Fight in the UAW

With the last two issues of *Truth*, the Trotskyist Organization has been fighting at the Ford River Rouge plant for a Special Convention of the UAW. We have said that this demand summarizes the objective of a split, which is already underway in the UAW, between the ranks and the Fraser bureaucracy that negotiated the national concessions contract only months ago. It is a fight for Workers Democracy in the UAW and, at the same time, a means to unify the strikes and the resistance against the attempts to enforce this contract of concessions, against the attempts to wring more concessions at the local level.

We see even more in the movement which is developing against concessions. We see the possibility to transform the unions into fighting weapons of the entire working class, like the Polish union "Solidarity" has become. The unions can become the advanced guard not only of organized workers, but of all the different layers in the working class opposed to Reagan's starvation budget and the policies which are being carried out in its name by the bosses of this country.

Where do we start?

Already, two meetings of GM sub-councils, not "sanctioned" by the Fraser leadership, have been held to organize opposition to concessions. One on June 11 in Detroit, representing sixteen GM assembly plants, and one in Ohio, which drew representatives from locals in many parts of the country. But these meetings, composed largely of local leaders from the UAW and held under tremendous pressure from the ranks for an organized fight

against concessions, are not yet under the full control of the ranks. That is what the fight for the Special Convention can achieve. It can reclaim the UAW as a fighting organization submitting to the demands of the ranks and breaking with collaboration with the bosses.

The UAW Constitution (Article 8, Section 4) provides for a union wide referendum on the calling of a Special Convention on the basis of the demand of 15 locals from at least five states. While we do not hold up the UAW Constitution as the be-all and end-all of Workers Democracy it is possible even on the basis of the locals that have already opposed Fraser to force such a referendum.

Beginning at the Ford Rouge plant in Detroit. Such a stand would deepen the current opposition to Fraser tremendously and, by the ranks' taking the initiative in building the Special Convention, would already give them a powerful basis to impose their will on the ultimate destiny of

## ERA and Democracy

On June 30, the last chance to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the US Constitution died when the time limit expired.

The defeat of the ERA — the refusal to state in the fundamental law of this country that women are equal to men — has set off a lot of controversy. What was the cause of its defeat? Was it "men," who want to keep women down? Was it backward and frightened women who embraced their own oppression?

These answers are way off the mark.

"We do not want a democracy in this land because if we have a democracy a majority rules." So says Reverend Charles Stanley, a "Moral Majority" type. And here lies the real answer.

Everyone knows that the great majority of Americans were for the ERA. But that counts for nothing in the *bourgeois democracy* we have in this country, where a tiny minority rules. The majority is also against intervention in El Salvador, against plant closings and concessions — but all these things continue, because they are in the

the UAW and the fight against concessions.

We are going to make this fight at the Rouge at the unit and local level. And we appeal to the caucuses and union formations to immediately take up this struggle with us in a fraternal fashion. In particular, we believe that this is a demand which the United Front Caucus should support and fight for, as we note in its program that it is for transforming the UAW into a union based on Workers Democracy and for the struggle of the ranks against concessions.

The agreement negotiated only months ago, which was going to set the trend for more concessions on the local level is, quite frankly, falling apart. That is because the ranks of the UAW are seeing that there is an alternative to Fraser and the concessions. We have to carry that alternative forward and make it larger by taking up the demand for a Special Convention of the UAW.

D.H.

interest of the minority, the imperialist ruling class.

Only at the desperate tail-end did the supporters of the ERA attack the insurance companies that have fought the ERA because they profit directly from women's oppression. And the insurance companies are part of the finance capital sector that is at the heart of imperialism.

In a country far more backward than the US, in Russia in 1917, the Bolsheviks led a revolution that overnight declared the equality of women and began to put it into practice.

Long before the "Moral Majority" existed, Karl Marx explained Workers Democracy in the Communist Manifesto: "All previous historical movements were movements of minorities, or in the interests of minorities. The proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interests of the immense majority."

*Forward to majority rule!*

TRUTH

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# Chicago Militants on the Hamburg Rally

*In the preparation of the Hamburg Rally, we put forward the Call of the Revolutionary Youth International as a basis not only for support to the Rally, but also as a way to open up a serious discussion of the questions posed in the Call. The statement below, from Chicago Workers Video, is part of such a discussion. We will continue it with our response in our next issue.*

TRUTH

CWV generally support the "Call to the Youth for the rally in Hamburg." The workers uprising in Poland has shown two important things for the revolutionary movement: 1) the role of the working class as a class for itself and as the great revolutionary lever to transform industrial society, and 2) the weakness of Stalinism and the willingness of the workers in the deformed workers states to rise up against the bureaucracy. As you say, "After Poland, Nothing Will Be As Before", this workers uprising, unlike in E. Germany in 1953, takes place also during a deep crisis of imperialism and economic decline, and therefore offers many more opportunities for those forces assembled around the program of the Fourth International than during the post-war boom period. Also, as you point out, these opportunities will not fall into the laps of the working class unless there is built a conscious communist international. This Fourth Communist International does not yet exist in a complete sense, nor are the groups which exist today

The Fourth International by virtue of primogeniture (Cde. A begat Cde. B., who then begat Cde. C.) But the Fourth Communist International is being reconstructed through the important work of such organizations as the IYG by raising, in an agitational way, the important political questions on the counterrevolutionary role of Stalinism and the crisis of imperialism.

We support the slogans in your call: "Freedom for Workers Poland," and find agreement with the August 1981 statement of the Polish Revolutionary Workers League.

We also call for a "Socialist Europe of Workers Councils" and point out that the workers of Europe have no future, and can enjoy no democracy, under a Europe united in the EEC [Common Market]. As was clearly demonstrated in Turkey, NATO is not in Europe (or in Eurasia) to defend the freedom of workers, but only the freedom of the bourgeoisie. The future of European workers must be won independently of NATO and the Kremlin bureaucracy, but, we emphasize, in such a way as to defend the *collectivized property relationships* of the deformed workers states. The recent Polish uprising was, we feel, in its essence the attempt of the Polish working class to defend the Polish economy in a way both independent of imperialist loans and Kremlin strategy. We do not support the economic boycott of Polish trade (supported by certain British unions) because the material basis of Stalinism is precisely the economic isolation of the deformed workers states, which de-

rives itself from Stalin's strategy of socialism in one country and imperialism's strategy against the Russian Revolution. A boycott, even apparently originating within the union movement from the basis of class solidarity intentions, makes it far easier for the Reagan government to intensify the cold war, and to prepare in earnest for war against the Soviet Union, much of which will be fought in Europe. The debate, now taking place in the UN, between Brezhnev and Reagan on nuclear disarmament should not be taken lightly. The deformed workers states must be able to deepen trade with the capitalist countries, for this is the material and economic basis for socialism on an international basis. Workers in the west must distill the essence of the Polish uprising: the usurious loans from Western banks, engineered by the Stalinists, have strangled the Polish economy; therefore, the working class in the West must direct their revolutionary movement against Western finance capital and those political parties which give it support, employing the slogan: abolish the debt. Secondly, the essence of the Polish uprising was over the right to strike. This, in the West, must be directed against Thatcher and Reagan and their ilk, who attack this right. Yes, we are all Polish workers, in the sense that we all defend this right to withhold our labor. The welfare of the Polish workers ultimately rests upon the health of the Polish economy and the ability of the deformed workers states to defend themselves against another imperialist war. Stalinism, through its

strategy of coexistence, has proven to be inadequate to meet these goals. We must call for a Socialist Europe based on Workers Councils with open trade with the Warsaw Pact; the downfall of the bourgeoisie in Europe will pull the rug out from under the Stalinists, and accelerate their political overthrow.

We support the Socialist, revolutionary unification of Germany under the control of Workers Councils as part and parcel of a United Socialist Europe.

The May Call, however, did give the impression that the rally intended to organize a march to Gdansk, which, to say the least, would be an adventure. This, however, has been clarified to us as not being the case.

We say that the youth must be organized in the revolutionary movement and be won over to fighting for the emancipation of the working class. The formulation in the Call "Massively Organize the Revolutionary Youth to Resolve the Crisis of Leadership of the World Proletariat" can give the impression that the youth are the principle revolutionary stratum in society. Although they are profoundly oppressed by capitalism, they are, for reasons of their relationship to production, not a revolutionary lever in themselves, but become a vital catalyst with the working class.

Finally, we agree with the slogan, "If you want peace, prepare for revolution."

June 29, 1982

## Building the SMOT-Solidarnosc Tour

*We are printing below the text of the SMOT-Solidarnosc message to American workers, as well as the text of a statement endorsed by union members and working class organizations in support of the proposed SMOT-Solidarnosc tour. Working with this statement as a means to organize union endorsements and support, we can build this tour.*

TRUTH

To workers and youth of the United States, your organizations, unions and committees!

From Stefan Palka and Vladimir Borisov of Solidarnosc and SMOT

Brothers and Sisters:

We have just returned from Scandinavia and France where we made a tour of meetings to inform and debate as representatives of Solidarnosc and the free union in the USSR, SMOT.

This Solidarnosc-SMOT tour was made at the invitation of committees in solidarity with Solidarnosc and unions in four Scandinavian countries and France. It was a concrete application of the celebrated appeal of the First Congress of Solidarnosc, to the workers and peoples of the USSR and Eastern Europe, of September 1981.

It was a tour of debate and mobilization of workers and youth for the defense of Workers Poland, of Solidarnosc, and of workers of all Eastern Europe. The results were very positive.

If you are interested in popularizing and

organizing such an initiative in the US, we are at your disposal. All the more so as it is the responsibility that falls upon us for the sake of our organizations and our comrades who are currently in prison, camps or psychiatric hospitals.

Stefan Palka  
Vladimir Borisov

"To all nations and people of good will who value the cause of democracy, freedom, and workers rights:

At the risk of their lives and personal freedom, despite the Draconian orders of martial law, despite the attempts to fetter

FREEDOM FOR WORKERS POLAND! The appeal at the top of this leaflet was made by the strike committee of the port of Szczecin, Poland, on December 14, 1981, one day after the declaration of martial law.

In response to this appeal, several organizations and UAW members formed an open committee to sponsor a speaking tour of Solidarnosc members in Detroit. (Since then support for this tour has also come from workers and groups in Chicago.) We were successful in winning the participation in this tour of Solidarnosc leaders, as well as leaders of the Russian free trade union SMOT, which stands for principles

Committee of Solidarity (Solidarnosc) in Exile. This trade union support was crucial to winning the participation of Solidarity members.

Only days before the tour was to begin we received another message from Local 2071 which said:

"From the advisement of John Christensen . . . we cannot support this tour."

The UAW officials pulled the string and support for this tour was revoked. We, however, are determined to go on with it.

It's no accident that at the same time that Polish workers are once again taking to the streets, that in Lordstown, Ohio, GM Local 1112 has held a sub-council meeting in defiance of Fraser in order to organize opposition to concessions. It is a sign of the times. Evidently, the Fraser leadership cannot support an open tour of Solidarity militants because it is afraid that the UAW would become a union like Solidarity.

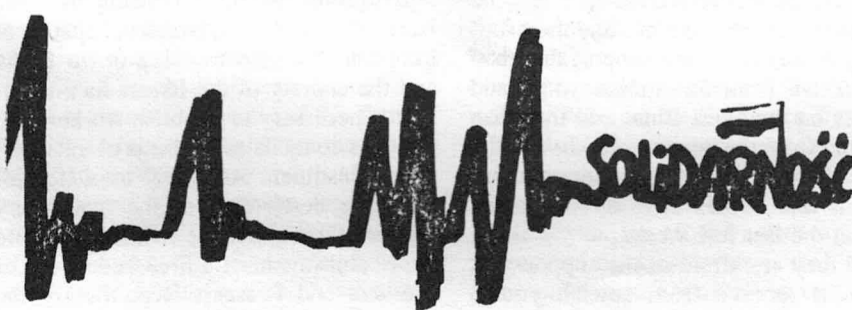
We think that just as Lordstown workers ignored Fraser's threats and held their meeting, exercising their rights as workers to control their union, so the ranks of the UAW should see to it that Solidarity be supported in its efforts to speak to US workers. If indeed the present leadership of the UAW is so threatened by the militancy of Solidarity, then all the better that this joining of the struggle of American and Polish workers should result in a new leadership in *our* union.

We call on you to answer the appeal of Polish workers and work with us to win the support of locals, slates, and caucuses together with all working class organizations to support the speaking tour of our brothers and sisters who are fighting for freedom in Poland.

FREE WALESA AND ALL THOSE ARRESTED IN POLAND!  
VICTORY FOR POLISH WORKERS MEANS VICTORY FOR AMERICAN WORKERS!

Open Organizing Committee for the Solidarnosc-SMOT Tour- PO Box 07066 Detroit, MI 48207, (313) 554-2262

'44 '56 '68 '70 '76 '80



us with fear, hundreds of thousands of Polish workers and patriots went on strike, voicing the following demands:

- That the declaration of a state of war be revoked;
- That all those arrested be freed;
- That all democratic and union rights won by the nation in August be restored.

We appeal to you:  
Support us in our struggle with mass protests. Support us with moral aid. Do not stand idly by while democracy in the heart of Europe is in danger of being stifled at birth. Be with us in these difficult moments. Solidarity with Solidarity. Poland has not yet perished."

similar to those of Solidarnosc.

On February 22, the Open Committee received confirmation of the support of UAW Local 2071 together with other union locals of the Wayne State University Union Coalition. In part, the letter read:

" . . . I extend an invitation to the representatives of Solidarnosc to meet with elected labor leaders here on campus. "Per your request, I am asking that all further arrangements and communications be directed to you."

This letter was directed to John Christensen of the UAW International Affairs Department; a copy was sent to the Open Committee and an invitation made to the

### TRUTH

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## All Out For Our Salvadoran Brothers!

By MARGARET GUTTSALL

A rebel offensive in El Salvador is now underway. According to reports in the bourgeois press, it is the largest offensive of the civil war.

### Victory in Sight

The Salvadoran guerrillas are now in control of large parts of Morazan and Chalatenango provinces. They also hold positions in San Vicente and around Guazapa Hill. In the last month they captured the town of Perquin and shot down a helicopter carrying the Salvadoran Vice-Minister of Defense, Col. Francisco Adolfo Castillo, whom they are now holding.

Even according to the bourgeois press, which is obviously biased in favor of the junta, the rebels are inflicting heavy casualties on the junta's forces. This is causing increasing concern in Washington and demoralization among the junta's troops in El Salvador.

This offensive proves the Fourth International's assessment that the recent elections in El Salvador were in fact a defeat for Reagan, that they signified that the masses were rejecting any sort of compromise solution and that a new wave of the revolution is developing in the Americas. This offensive affirms the Fourth International's orientation toward leading this new wave of the revolution to victory.

The American working class must place itself entirely on the side of the rebel offensive in El Salvador and do everything within its power to insure its victory. It must fight for an immediate withdrawal of all US aid to the junta, for an international workers boycott to enforce this demand, and for arms to the Salvadoran rebels. The struggle for arms for the Salvadoran rebels must begin with a struggle in the trade unions to allocate funds for them, as Ed Asner of "Lou Grant" has done to furnish the guerrillas with medical supplies.

### Fight in the Unions

We say American unions must do everything in their power to insure the victory of the Salvadoran peasants, because this victory will give a tremendous boost to the struggle against imperialism and its leading representative, Ronald Reagan, throughout the world. The victory of the Salvadoran rebels, which the current offensive proves is wholly possible, will all but insure the downfall of Reagan. Support for him among the bourgeoisie has always been based on the belief that he, unlike Carter, would be capable of confronting the revolution, especially in Central and South America. The chaos that the victory of the Salvadoran rebels will cause in the ruling circles in the US will tremendously widen the opportunities for US workers to press forward with their demands.

To go all out for the victory of the Salvadoran rebels demands a struggle in the trade unions, a struggle against the conception that American workers must limit their fight to asking the US to withdraw all aid and not to intervene with troops.

First, because limiting the struggle to trying to pressure Reagan to do anything is false. Opposition to US policy in in El Salvador has never been higher, yet Reagan has gone right ahead and allocated unprecedented funds to the junta dominated by d'Aubuisson (whom former US ambassador Robert White termed "a pathological killer," remember?), sent even more "advisers" into the country, and stepped up training of the junta's troops. The man and his regime obviously do not respond to pressure. A boycott is necessary to enforce the workers demands.

More importantly, by saying American workers must limit their struggle to placing demands on the US government, by



rejecting the struggle for the active boycott of the junta and for arms to the Salvadoran rebels, the Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists are saying that when it comes to solidarity, El Salvadorans are second-class citizens.

### Real Solidarity

When workers in Flint occupied the GM plants forty years ago, other unionists not only collected money to support their struggle, they got into their cars and drove to Flint, circled the plant and armed themselves to defend it. GM was crushed.

Last fall when PATCO workers went on strike, every militant in the unions and many who are not so militant fought for their union to allocate funds for PATCO, to boycott the airlines. And many joined PATCO's picket lines, fought for a national strike in defense of PATCO. The union bureaucrats who opposed this struggle

were denounced as traitors to the workers' cause.

Isn't allocating funds from our unions to the Salvadoran rebels, so that they can purchase arms with which to beat back Reagan's attack on them, the least we can do to insure the victory of our brothers and sisters? Isn't organizing an all-union boycott of the junta just one small step?

Behind all the objections to this orientation in the unions is the conception that when it comes to people on the other side of the US border, somehow things are different. Behind all the objections is a fundamental acceptance of the boundaries that the imperialists have established to divide and enslave us. The Trotskyist Organization says no!

*All out for the victory of our brothers in El Salvador!*

*Union funds for arms!*

*Workers Boycott of the junta now!*

## Down with the Reagan-Begin "Peace Plan"

Nearly a month has passed since US imperialism's agent in the Middle East, the Zionist Israeli state which now occupies Palestine, invaded and began to occupy Lebanon.

Now US imperialism has put forward a "peace plan" that calls for the eventual withdrawal of this occupying force and for 8,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), who were driven out of Palestine, their homeland, and, eventually, into Lebanon by US instigated Zionist forces, to now lay down their arms and leave Lebanon!

US representatives further claim that Yasser Arafat and other current leaders of the PLO have agreed to this plan and will soon be leaving Beirut for some unnamed Arab country.

What a neat solution to the "Palestinian problem"! And no more bloodshed. But, in reality, nothing could be farther from the truth.

This "peace plan" is nothing but a desperate and dirty imperialist maneuver to, first, isolate the PLO from the masses of Palestinians and from the oppressed and exploited Lebanese. Second, it is a hoped for means to enable the imperialist forces to wipe out the PLO, on the road from Beirut to some "unnamed Arab country" or through the dispersal of the forces of the PLO to many countries and their eventual elimination there.

This "peace plan," this dirty maneuver, is one more proof that, after a month of

occupation, the US and the Israeli state are afraid to take on the PLO in Beirut. They are afraid of the resistance that will be mounted by the Palestinians and their supporters in Beirut, of the support that they will receive from Palestinian youth and workers on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and from the peoples who live in the Golan Heights, all places where demonstrations and strikes have already taken place in the last few weeks.

And they are afraid of the support that they will receive from Jewish youth, workers and soldiers who have already come out in open opposition to a war for the first time in the history of Israel.

US imperialism and Zionism are hoping against hope that if they do the job outside Beirut no one will notice, or at least no one will be able to do anything about it.

But these hopes are in vain. For neither the American working class, nor the Palestinians, nor the Jewish youth and workers will ever accept what Sharon and his thugs openly call the "final solution" to the "Palestinian problem."

This is imperialism's and Zionism's dilemma. If they do not try to wipe out the PLO, support for the Palestinian Revolution will continue to grow. If they do try to wipe out the PLO this will also provoke further support for the PLO.

Thus it is imperialism and Zionism which are on the defensive. It is they who are cornered and surrounded in Beirut.

Thus it is the task of revolutionaries to

lead the opposition to US imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East to victory, not only to bring an end to US support to the Israeli state and to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, but also to bring down Begin and the entirety of the Israeli state itself.

It is necessary to establish workers and peasants councils as the basis of a Palestinian Constituent Assembly as a step toward the destruction of the reactionary regimes throughout the Middle East and the establishment of a Free Federation of Workers and Peasants Republics of the Middle East.

*Palestine belongs to the Palestinians.* In his book, *The Jewish Question*, the Jewish Trotskyist Abram Leon, who died in the Nazi camps, dispels the myth of the "diaspora" (that the Jews were driven out of Palestine after 70 AD) and shows that the Jewish people left in great numbers even centuries before, settling all over the ancient world.

The imperialists and Zionists have simply used this myth in order to divert the Jewish people from the struggle against their real oppressors, the imperialists, and to use them to crush the Palestinian Revolution that has threatened and continues to threaten to bring down the imperialist order in the Middle East.

As long as the Zionist Israeli state continues to exist there will never be peace in the Middle East. To give the slightest credence to the notion that this state has a right to exist, that it in any way represents

the aspirations of the Jewish people or is a solution to their persecution, is to abandon the possibility of the revolutionary unification of the Palestinian and Jewish workers against imperialism and its tool, Zionism.

This demands a workers boycott of the Israeli state, which is in full economic crisis already, on the international scale, and a general strike in occupied Palestine and Lebanon to bring down Begin.

Only mass revolutionary working class action can bring down this state and win freedom for Palestine. The so-called friends of the PLO, from the Soviet Union to the Arab states of Libya, Syria and Iraq have done nothing to help the PLO. Indeed Syria signed a separate cease-fire that permitted the Zionists to encircle Beirut in the first place.

Look at the reality. The greatest allies of the PLO in Beirut today are the Jewish soldiers who oppose the war, the 120,000 who rallied in Israel against Begin and the invasion! What chances this gives us!

Opening up a struggle for an international workers boycott to bring down the imperialist, Zionist, Israeli state means that it will be the imperialists who will be encircled in no time!

*Freedom for Palestine!*

*Down with Reagan and Begin!*

*Down with the Israeli State!*

*International workers boycott now!*

M.G.