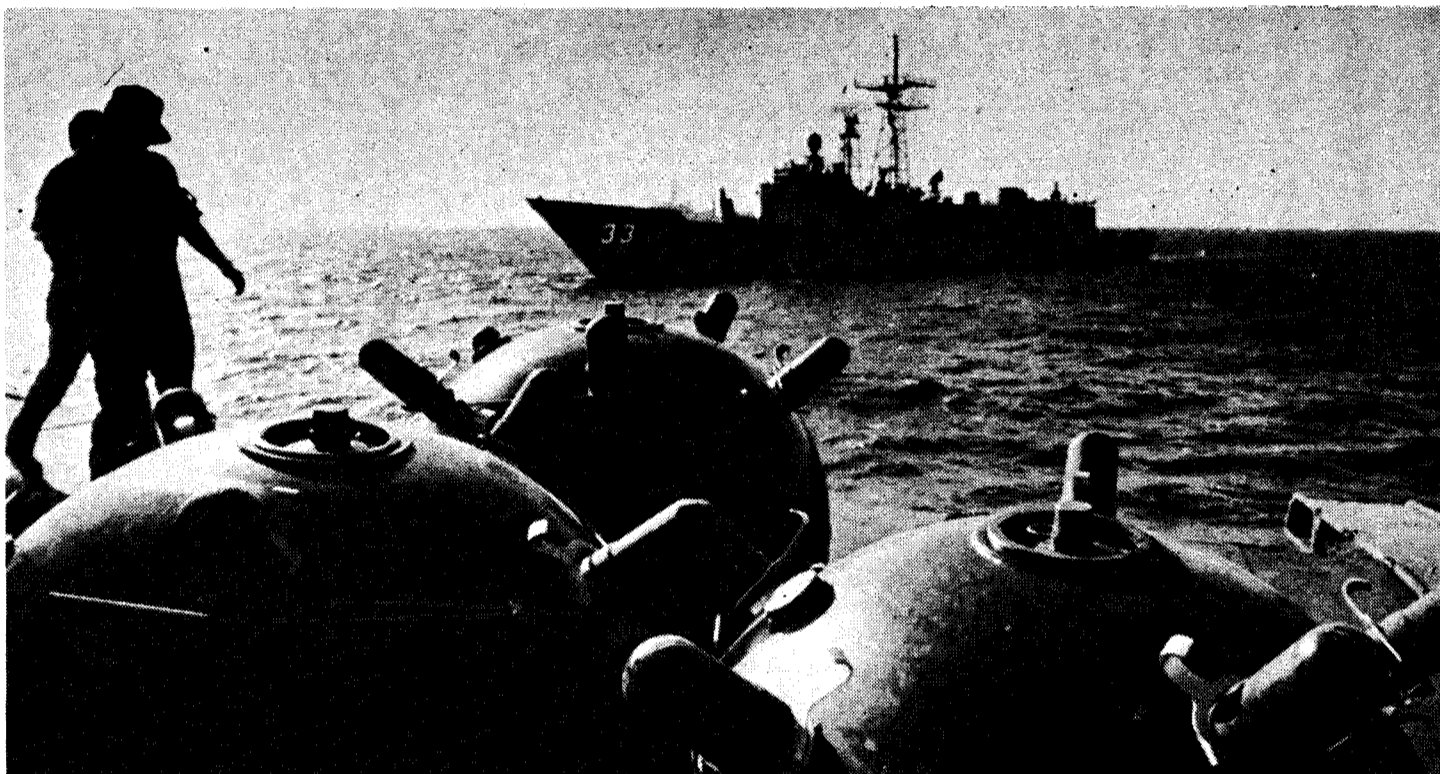


War-Crazy Reagan Attacks the Ayatollahs

Trigger-Happy in the Persian Gulf

Careening from Contragate revelations of having secretly sold arms to Teheran, the Reagan administration seems hell-bent on provoking war with Iran. Last week, in a brazen act of war, the U.S. attacked and seized an Iranian ship in the Persian Gulf without warning. To further taunt Khomeini, the Navy scuttled the ship by blowing it up. And war secretary Weinberger is demanding "a totally different kind of government in Iran." The Reaganauts have delusions they're back in the days of Teddy Roosevelt and his "big stick," that by sailing gunboats up the Gulf they can install another shah. Washington has sucked virtually every European NATO power into its shoot-'em-up adventure on the Cold War grounds of "keeping the Soviets out" of the Gulf. But by getting mired in the muck of the Iran/Iraq war, Rambo Reagan has shot himself in the groin. Now this pyromaniac could light the fuse for World War III.

First they sent in a Navy flotilla, daring Khomeini to respond. But Teheran didn't bite. So the U.S. used two helicopter gunships from a secret high-tech Army unit (Task Force 160) to disable the Iranian ship, killing at least three seamen and capturing 26. Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger showed up in person on the decks of the command ship *LaSalle* to crow. He called the Iranian craft "a blazing gun," a "mine-laying ship" caught "red-handed" in



Persian Gulf minefield: USS *Jarrett* captures Iranian ship. Reagan's provocations are dangerous trip wire for World War III.

waters used by American ships as an anchorage. The U.S. solemnly declares it's not going to allow such "criminal acts" in the *Persian* Gulf. According to the Pentagon the Iranian craft was the *Iran Ajr*, but Lloyd's Register lists this as a cargo ship. Reporters who boarded her

say it was the *Rakhsh*. Who will ever know, since the Pentagon dynamited the evidence.

The U.S. is clearly gearing up to at least drop some bombs on Iran. And if Reagan gets his Gulf war, it's going to be a messy business. Scores of tankers

crowd the shipping lanes through this shallow basin nearly closed by the Straits of Hormuz. There's now a NATO war fleet of more than 60 ships, a small Soviet naval group of minesweepers and escort ships, a couple of Iranian *continued on page 4*

Feds Caught Out on Nazi Holocaust Lies

Reagan's Amerika

Every time you turn over another rock in Reagan's administration, another Nazi-lover slithers out. The latest outrage came out in a New York *Daily News* (20 September) front-page exposé headlined, "UNFAIR TO NAZIS." Who but a swastika-toting Hitler-lover could say such a thing?! Reagan's Department of Education, that's who—and it tells you a lot about the people running this country.

The *News* revealed that a U.S. Department of Education panel last year refused to fund a widely used high

school curriculum on the Holocaust because, as one panelist wrote, it didn't give "the Nazi point of view" nor "that of the Ku Klux Klan." If that high school course is "unfair to Nazis," we hail it! Nazism is not a "point of view," it's genocide. Hitler's Holocaust murdered six million Jews, a million German Communists and hundreds of thousands of Gypsies. The Soviet peoples lost 20 million dead in their heroic struggle that smashed the Nazi death machine.

This government apology for Nazi

terror is no aberration, but part of the onslaught of social and political reaction in Reagan's Amerika. Fundamentalist book-burners and cross-burners are spreading ignorance and fear across the land while the diehard "nuke the Russians" gang is still in office. When Reagan salutes SS Nazi graves at Bitburg, West Germany, spitting on the victims of the Holocaust, it's no wonder that the Nazi- and Klan-lovers in this administration drop the mask. Now the Reaganites propose to turn American schools into platforms

for anti-Semitism, lynch mob terror and fascist filth. We say: No way!

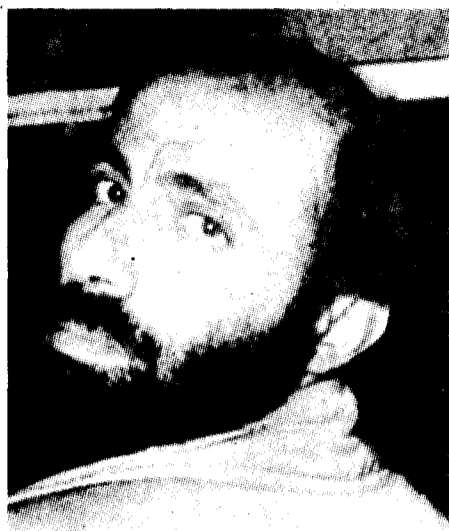
"Facing History and Ourselves" is a curriculum focusing on the Holocaust written in 1975 by two Massachusetts high school teachers. Consisting of a teacher training course, a textbook and a collection of documentary films, the course has been used for the last ten years by over 30,000 teachers nationwide. Last year, the program applied for a federal grant to the Education Department's "National Diffusion Network," which gives funds to make programs more widely available. It ran smack into the Reagan administration's new "program significance panel," which is supposed to screen (i.e., censor) programs for "appropriateness." The panels are pushed by ultra-rightists like the Eagle Forum and "Parents to Protect Our Youth From Propaganda, Brainwashing, and Subversive Textbooks in Our Schools."

An article in the professional journal *continued on page 11*

Free Mordechai Vanunu!

For the past 12 months Mordechai Vanunu has been held in solitary confinement in the notorious Ashkelon dungeon run by the Shin Beth (Israeli FBI). Vanunu faces the death penalty for courageously exposing the Zionist state's arsenal of 100-200 nuclear bombs. Vanunu is formally charged with giving information to "unauthorized persons" and "passing secrets to the enemy." The "secret" of Israel's nuclear arsenal is well known. But Vanunu's exposure of its vast extent revealed to the world that the bombs are directed not just at Arab capitals but at the Soviet Union—posing a threat of a global nuclear holocaust.

All proceedings against Vanunu are conducted behind closed doors. Vanunu's family members are limited to a half hour visit with Vanunu every two weeks and are subject to strict gag orders themselves. The Israeli government issued a warrant for the arrest of Vanunu's brother Meir on charges of espionage for telling the European press how the Israeli Mossad kidnapped Mordechai from Rome. The Partisan Defense Committee protested to the Israeli embassy this forced exile of Meir from family and home. We again demanded Mordechai Vanunu's immediate release and that all charges against both Mordechai and Meir Vanunu be dropped.



Mordechai Vanunu

Independent

In July Mordechai Vanunu wrote of his motivations in an open letter from Ashkelon prison:

"My principal message is in several spheres. On the personal level, the individual, the citizen, anywhere on the face of the earth, has to find the way in which he can add his personal contribution to improve life on earth, its quality and safety....

"In my own case, I wanted to increase the awareness of the nuclear danger in this country and in the region, so it was an action that contributes to the security and the brotherhood of nations....



TROTSKY

Trotsky on the Jewish Question

In December 1938 Leon Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the Bolshevik Revolution and founder of the Fourth International, addressed an appeal to American Jews. Trotsky saw that Hitler's victory in Germany, the proliferation of fascist forces in Europe and the U.S. and the imminent imperialist world war posed the direct danger of genocide of the Jewish people, underlining the urgency of the

fight for revolutionary leadership against the decadent capitalist system which engenders fascism and war.

The number of countries which expel the Jews grows without cease. The number of countries able to accept them decreases. At the same time the exacerbation of the struggle intensifies. It is possible to imagine without difficulty what awaits the Jews at the mere outbreak of the future world war. But even without war the next development of world reaction signifies with certainty the physical extermination of the Jews....

Now more than ever, the fate of the Jewish people—not only their political but also their physical fate—is indissolubly linked with the emancipating struggle of the international proletariat. Only audacious mobilization of the workers against reaction, creation of workers' militia, direct physical resistance to the fascist gangs, increasing self-confidence, activity and audacity on the part of all the oppressed can provoke a change in the relation of forces, stop the world wave of fascism, and open a new chapter in the history of mankind.

—Leon Trotsky, "Appeal to American Jews Menaced by Fascism and Anti-Semitism" (December 1938)



LENIN

WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League of the U.S.

DIRECTOR OF PARTY PUBLICATIONS: Liz Gordon

EDITOR: Jan Norden

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Noah Wilner

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Opinions expressed in signed articles or letters do not necessarily express the editorial viewpoint.

No. 437

2 October 1987

"By this action I pointed out the path in which I believe, my own philosophy, about what must be done, the way in which a man must be willing to sacrifice and risk his life for the sake of an act that is important and beneficial to all mankind...."

The trial is adjourned until mid-October. We must use this time to build mass international support for his defense. Support for Vanunu has been growing, including inside the Zionist fortress itself. He has performed a great service for humanity, and that debt must be repaid. International pressure and working-class action must be mobilized to free Vanunu now! Send contributions for his defense to: Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 45005, Somerville, MA 02145.

* * *

A number of MOVE members have written us about Sue Africa, who as a white member of MOVE has faced a particular form of persecution and harassment by government officials. Sue has been in Muncy, Pennsylvania state prison since 1980 on charges stemming from a 1977 cop assault on the MOVE home. After receiving her first stipend last month Sue wrote us of the state's most recent efforts to break her will:

"Not only did the Parole Board deny my parole because I refused to abide by the stipulation that I don't associate with any MOVE member but they have also advised me that they will not be reviewing me for parole again and I have 6 more years until my maximum sentence of 12 years—unless I write and tell them I am amenable to their special stipulation that I don't associate with any MOVE member. This is a precedent in prison parole policy, every inmate on parole is always reviewed at least every 6 mo.-1 yr."

On 13 May 1985—Mother's Day—Sue's nine-year-old son Tomasa was burned to death with four other MOVE children when Democratic mayor Wilson Goode ordered the bombing of their home on Osage Avenue. MOVE supporter Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote us from Pennsylvania's death row about Sue's courage:

"Thanx for your timely rap on Sue. She is a story that is worthy of your & all

committed folks' deepest concern. The most cold, calloused and heartless treatment is reserved for 'white' MOVE members and supporters. Sue is no exception. As a reporter, I covered her 'trial'; a farce from the opening rap of the gavel, her 'judge' now sits on the State Supreme Ct., a redneck who's only interest was in separating Sue from her belief. At trial, he couldn't look that brave revolutionary in the face! "They've alternatively sent her to Fairhaven State Hospital for the criminally insane (on the particularly racist notion that any 'white' person who dared join a predominantly 'black' organization, i.e., MOVE, must, by definition, be quite mad) to keeping her isolated on separate quarters from other MOVE women, to actually taunting her with news of the incineration of MOVE infants May 13th; all in a vain attempt to wrest her from MOVE's influence. That she remained startlingly sane, not to mention, still committed to her belief, her religion, and still in resistance to this infanticidal system, is itself a tribute to a remarkable revolutionary, and a still more remarkable revolutionary teaching...."

The persecution of Sue Africa and all MOVE members must be met with mass protest. Send letters and telegrams demanding immediate freedom for Sue Africa to: Mr. Herman Tartler, Board Secretary, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, 3103 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

* * *

The PDC helped publicize and pay legal expenses for the successful Spartacist lawsuit against Accuracy in Academia (see article on page 10) which forced AIA to retract its deadly libel that Spartacist publications "urge... the killing of police officers." This important victory for all defenders of democratic rights cost nearly \$10,000 in legal expenses and publicity. Help defray the costs of this case. Send your contributions to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.

We encourage WV readers to continue to support and build the PDC. Become a sustaining contributor. Send a donation of \$5 or more and receive a subscription to *Class-Struggle Defense Notes*. ■

SL Victory Against "Accuracy in Academia"

AIA Witchhunters Retract Deadly Libel

BERKELEY

Wednesday, October 7, 12 noon

Stephens Lounge, ASUC Building
University of California

Speaker:

Valerie West
Staff counsel,
Partisan Defense Committee

For more information: (415) 839-0851

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National Office:

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(212) 732-7860

Atlanta

Box 4012
Atlanta, GA 30302

Boston

Box 840, Central Sta.
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Striking Chicago Teachers Surround City Hall

CHICAGO—Over 1,000 striking teachers, members of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), surrounded City Hall on September 23 demanding Democratic mayor Harold Washington come up with the money for a decent contract. Still solid after three weeks on the picket lines, the 38,000 teachers and maintenance workers are determined to beat back the Board of Education's insulting demand for a pay cut, recently increased from 2 to 4 percent!

Even as Washington's administration is heavily cutting back on supplementary food distributions for the poor, his school board is cynically attempting to pry open the schools by offering free lunches to children who cross the picket lines! At the City Hall rally, strikers chanted "Chop the top," referring to the bloated salaries of school administrators. To enforce its strikebreaking, the board has filed "unfair labor practices" charges against the unions with the Illinois Labor Relations Board. Any attempt to order the striking unions back to work must be met with a massive mobilization of Chicago labor—transit workers, firemen, all city workers—to turn any injunctions into worthless scraps of paper.

At the September 23 rally strikers chanted, "Where's Harold?" A first step to winning this strike is to realize



Chicago teachers chant "Where's Harold?" at September 23 strike rally. Black Democratic mayor Washington is on the other side of class line.

that the black Democratic mayor is on the other side! Washington's school board is trying to break the CTU. The mayor's allies, like Jesse Jackson's

Operation PUSH, are trying to mobilize black parents against the heavily black CTU. From Detroit to Chicago the black Democratic Party mayors

are the hatchet men for Reagan's war on blacks and labor—it's their job. Those like the reformist Communist Party, which calls for the strikers to show "maximum unity" with "the Harold Washington administration" (*People's Daily World*, 17 September), are paving the way for the defeat of the teachers strike and of all city workers.

Last week Chicago transit workers were saddled with a rotten takeaway contract, the product of a state anti-labor law which was pushed through the legislature by Washington in 1983. And the drive against the city unions goes hand in hand with racist terror in Segregation City. In July trigger-happy cops gunned down disabled black auto worker Larry Hawkins in his own home, and brutally beat up and arrested Cassandra Seay, a bus driver and member of the Amalgamated Transit Union. The integrated unions in Chicago, especially teachers and transit workers, have the links to the oppressed ghetto masses and the power to defeat the union-busters and the racist terrorists. Blacks and all working people must break with the capitalist Democratic Party, fighting instead to forge a workers party that has on its banner the defense of all the oppressed. Victory to the Chicago teachers strike! ■

Atlanta Cops Gun Down Black Viet Vet

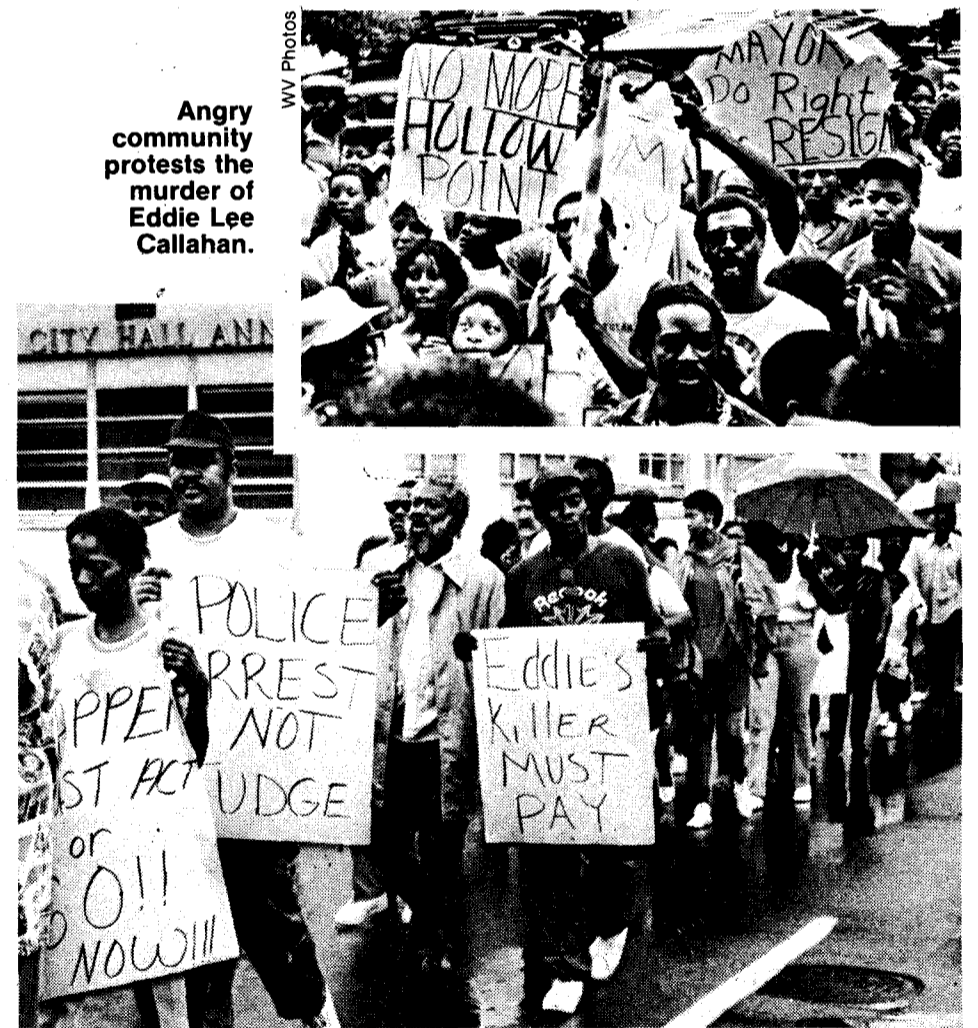
ATLANTA—On the evening of September 10, two white plainclothes cops chased down black 38-year-old Vietnam veteran Eddie Lee Callahan. The two cops were cruising the Carver Homes housing project for "dope deals" and gunning for someone. The cops' "excuse" for chasing Callahan, who crashed his car, was that he had stolen it. The car belonged to his father. As Callahan ran away, dazed, the cops pounced on and pistol-whipped him. And while he was handcuffed, they pumped six hollow point bullets into his back and side at pointblank range.

This was the second killing by cops in a week here where the victim was shot in the back. The cops have claimed that Callahan was grabbing their gun when he was shot, but according to the *Atlanta Constitution* (15 September), "Witnesses said Callahan was handcuffed and lying face down when he was shot." Five hundred enraged residents of the black project gathered as Callahan lay dead, shouting "Murderers!" and "Killers!" at the police. For this cold-blooded racist execution the cops were suspended with pay (put on vacation) pending an internal police investigation. These same two cops were already under investigation for the brutal beating of a black man several months earlier.

On September 17, two hundred people marched to demand the cops Watson and Long be suspended without pay. Three days earlier, after 125 angry Carver Homes residents demonstrated inside City Hall chambers, black Commissioner of Public Safety George Napper had suspended the cops. But Mayor Andrew Young and Napper then revoked the suspensions when the cops threatened to "strike." This case underlines the role of black Democrats as front men for the racist capitalist system. Young, the Martin Luther King lieutenant nicknamed "Tom," went from protecting the racist killer cops from the outrage of Atlanta blacks to Washington, D.C., where he used his stature as civil rights leader to testify against racist Judge Bork. Young has recently returned from Guatemala City where he set up a program for Guatemala death squad police to come to Atlanta for "human rights" training!

As the 1988 Democratic convention approaches, the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state has been gearing up to keep in line the black, working-class and poor majority of the "city too busy to hate." Dum dum bullets, "vagrant-free zones," West German anti-terrorist "training" for Atlanta police are elements of the deadly package. And in order to neutralize the fury around the Callahan shooting, the city and cops have launched a smear campaign against the victim. Police investigators have leaked reports that courageous eyewitnesses to the police murder failed lie detector tests while the cops passed. Meanwhile, the Fulton County coroner's office has fired a woman who accused the coroner of suppressing information which punched holes in the cops' lying cover-up.

Former King lieutenant and black city councilman Hosea Williams has tapped the seething anger of Carver Homes residents. Amid persistent warnings from the *Atlanta Constitution* to back off, Williams is leading nighttime marches and vigils at City Hall, drawing up to 300 people, until the cops are removed from the payroll. But don't be



Angry community protests the murder of Eddie Lee Callahan.

fooled—his attacks on Young are to push Williams' own mayoral ambitions, and no less than the mayor he's trying to divert anger away from the state. He's worried that unless a token gesture is made, the whole thing could blow in a way the Democratic Party can't handle.

Williams wants to "get rid of some rotten apples" in the police, but is not raising calls for them to be jailed, or charged with murder. He has praised the police department as being the best big city department in the nation, and leads songs with verses saying, "We love the police." Likewise, the Forsyth County march last January derailed the anger over KKK attacks into support for the

Democrats, spreading illusions that the state (through the Georgia National Guard!) would protect black rights against the Klan.

The police are the armed fist of the capitalist state, and strikebreaking racist enemies of blacks and the working class. Elementary justice demands that the cop killers of Eddie Callahan be jailed! If the mainly black city workers and transit unions were to demand a halt to this racist rampage and flex some strike muscle, Young and the ruling class he serves would think twice about unleashing their police. For labor/black mobilizations to stop racist terror! Black liberation through socialist revolution! ■

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—MARXIST LITERATURE—

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Thurs.: 5:30-8:00 p.m., Sat.: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
1634 Telegraph, 3rd Floor (near 17th Street)
Oakland, California Phone: (415) 839-0851

Chicago

Tues.: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Sat.: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
161 W. Harrison St., 10th Floor
Chicago, Illinois Phone: (312) 663-0715

New York City

Tues.: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sat.: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
41 Warren St. (one block below
Chambers St. near Church St.)
New York, N.Y. Phone: (212) 267-1025

War-Crazy Reagan...

(continued from page 1)

warships and submarines, mines everywhere, and scads of Iranian speedboats for "martyrdom" attacks. The destruction of the Iranian ship provided Reagan with the desired momentary spike of popularity in the polls. But things will change swiftly if those "American boys" start getting shot down by Hawk missiles sold to Iran by the Reagan/North gang in the first place.

Reagan's Real Target Is Russia

The Iran/Iraq war, which now enters its eighth year and has cost over one million dead, is a dirty war between two repulsive dictatorial regimes. The working class must oppose both sides in this squalid bloodbath. We have called since the beginning for Iranian and Iraqi workers to turn the guns the other way and bring down Khomeini and Hussein. If Reagan now carries out his war threats, as Democrat Carter tried and failed to do, revolutionaries must defend Iran against imperialist attack. *But Reagan's real target is Russia.* Behind the Iran/contras arms scandal is the fact that Reagan and Khomeini are brothers under the skin. Washington has followed a schizophrenic policy of arming and denouncing the ayatollahs, while both of them denounce the Soviet "evil empire" and are quietly allied in a "holy war" against Communism in Afghanistan.

The imperialist powers had for years taken a low profile in the Iran/Iraq war, playing both sides off against each other. This year the U.S. started tilting more against Iran with the scheme to "reflag" Kuwaiti oil tankers and provide Navy escorts for them. At first Europe shrank from Reagan's folly, especially after the first tanker to be escorted hit a mine. The Reaganauts' high-tech 600-ship Navy looked like a helpless giant when it was revealed that they had *no* modern minesweepers. A vice admiral sheepishly admitted that a cheap "fish finder" sonar used by fishermen could have spotted the mine that hit the *Bridgeton* (*Navy Times*, 28 September). Yet the White House has since persuaded the Netherlands, Italy, Britain and Belgium to send their navies into the crazy adventure. The Japanese

and West Germans have come on board; and France, whose Teheran embassy is now under siege, already has its own war fleet in place.

The sudden escalation of anti-Iran craziness is reminiscent of the anti-Libya "terrorism" frenzy of last year, which Admiral Poindexter later admitted during the Iran/contras hearings was part of a U.S. disinformation campaign to justify a military assault on Libya. In fact the terrorist HQ was on the Potomac, as the Reagan gang launched a bombing run on Tripoli in April 1986 intended to assassinate Qaddafi—they succeeded only in killing his adopted daughter along with other Libyan civil-

from the Soviet Union, than in North Africa.

Gorbachev's Pipe Dream: Peacekeeping with Imperialism

The Soviet Union can chortle over Reagan's foundering in the Gulf. Responding to American calls for an arms embargo against Iran, Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov jibed, "We are not selling arms to Iran. Some other countries were selling arms to Iran and telling others not to do so" (*New York Times*, 25 September). Moreover Moscow recently agreed with Iran to build a railroad and pipeline linking the USSR



Who is Reagan defending in Persian Gulf? Feudalist King Fahd of Saudi Arabia ("Country 2" of Contragate fame).

ians. U.S. commando attacks on Libya continued throughout 1986, and now the Pentagon is supplying gas masks to Chad, currently engaged in a border war with Libya. Is Washington planning a poison gas attack on Libya?

What links U.S. aggression and military adventures against Libya and Iran is the global war drive against the Soviet Union. The hysteria over Qaddafi was based on the fiction that he was the main proxy terrorist for the Kremlin. Now they're pushing the Big Lie that Russia is out to take over the Persian Gulf and cut off the "free world's" oil supply. The U.S. wants to "reflag" the Gulf as "Lake Michigan" in the name of "freedom of navigation," even though the only ones it's vital to as a commercial waterway are Iran and the local sultanates. But Reagan's nutty military adventurism is far more dangerous in the strategic Persian Gulf, a nodal point of world tensions just a few hundred miles

with fabled "warm water ports," which must drive Washington crazy. But the Soviets are anxious to end the Gulf war in order to strengthen ties with both Khomeini's Teheran and Saddam Hussein's Baghdad. Fat chance!

Gorbachev & Co. have been trying to push a negotiated settlement to the war via UN Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire and withdrawal of forces. In fact the Soviets last year started paying money into the fund for United Nations "peacekeeping" operations, such as the UNIFIL forces in Lebanon, which are nothing more than border guards for Israel. Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze is now pushing for a UN force to go into the Gulf. The Soviets' proposal would only legitimize imperialist intervention by giving it a UN flag—as when the U.S. invaded Korea in the '50s, or raped the Congo and killed African nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba in 1961.

Lenin called the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, an imperialist "den of thieves." The United Nations is an imperialist cabal along with their neocolonial victims in the "Third World," as well as bureaucratically deformed workers states like the Soviet Union. Gorbachev still pines for the old Stalinist dream of 1945, when they thought that the "Big Five" (U.S., Britain, USSR, France and China) would rule the world through the UN. But almost immediately Truman and Churchill launched the Cold War to "roll back" Communism and eventually overthrow the Soviet government in the name of "free world" capitalism. Whether there's a war-crazed madman like Reagan in the White House or Democratic Cold Warriors like Truman and Kennedy, defense of the Soviet Union against the imperialist warmongers requires world socialist revolution.

As the Iran/Contragate affair demonstrated, the war drive against the Soviet Union abroad also means the subversion of any pretense of parliamentary democracy at home. Once again Reagan is flouting laws designed to prevent a president from running amok—in this case, the toothless War Powers Act, which requires the president to inform Congress when he puts troops in a situation of "imminent hostilities." Invoking the act would mean that Congress must approve a continuation of the military action. So Reagan simply ignores it and goes into the Gulf with guns blazing. And once again the lily-livered liberals in Congress have capitulated, timidly suggesting a watered-down version of the same empty law so they don't "tie the president's hands."

From Central America to the Persian Gulf, the gang in power in Washington have been looking for an easy "win" against the Soviets. The Reaganauts were "walking tall" after stomping the tiny black Caribbean island of Grenada (hoping everyone would forget their Beirut fiasco). But their Grenada high didn't last. They've gone after Nicaragua with a vengeance, vowing (as CIA director Casey put it) to take back at least one country from Communism. But it hasn't been so easy—the Nicaraguan masses have fought tenaciously to defend their revolution. Even Qaddafi's house refused to fall down no matter how hard Reagan puffed. And now the Reaganauts are desperate. No major power in its right mind would go to war over the Persian Gulf, but who ever thought the Reagan regime was sane? ■

Spartacist Events

Defend the Soviet Union Through World Revolution!

Where Is Gorbachev's Russia Going?

NEW YORK

Thursday, Oct. 15
7:30 p.m.

Barnard Hall
Room 306A
Barnard College

For more information:
(212) 267-1025

AMHERST

Monday, Oct. 19
7:30 p.m.

(Room to be announced)
UMass Amherst

For more information: (617) 492-3928

BOSTON

Tuesday, Oct. 20
7:30 p.m.

(Room to be announced)
Harvard University

Speaker: Marjorie Stamberg, Spartacist League Central Committee
Spartacist candidate for NYC mayor, 1985

CLEVELAND

Saturday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

109 University Center
2121 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland State University

Speaker: Tweet Carter, Spartacist League

Return to the Road of Lenin and Trotsky!

70th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution

LOS ANGELES

Friday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.

Dodd Hall, Room 154
UCLA

Speaker:
Joseph Seymour
Spartacist League
Central Committee

For more information: (213) 380-8239

SEATTLE

Friday, October 2

Time and location to be announced

Speaker:
Martha Phillips
Member, Spartacist League,
just returned from the Soviet Union

Eyewitness Report—
Slides of Leningrad and Moscow

For more information: (415) 839-0851

Defend Nicaragua! Smash U.S. Imperialism!

CHICAGO

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Ida Noyes, Library
University of Chicago

For more information: (312) 663-0715

Speakers:
Judith Preston
Member, Spartacus Youth Club,
recently returned from Nicaragua

Marijke Asten
Spartacist League

Relatives of KAL 007 Victims:



Families mourn relatives who died on KAL 007, in New York (left) and Japan. Now many know culprit is in the White House.

We Accuse Reagan!

The morning after Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter jet on the night of 31 August-1 September 1983, the Reagan administration put its anti-Soviet propaganda machine into high gear. And while Democrats and Republicans alike were vituperating against the "evil empire," the U.S. government was systematically suppressing the accumulating evidence which contradicted the official claim of an "innocent" flight gone "astray." A National Transportation

Safety Board investigation was called off, Air Force tapes were erased, air controllers silenced.

We said right off, "Reagan's Story Stinks!" (see the Spartacist pamphlet *KAL 007: U.S. War Provocation*). Ever since, proof has piled up that the airliner was on a spy mission over some of the most sensitive Soviet military installations in the Far East, overflying Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin island. At first, everyone from hard-core Reaganauts to Congressional Dem-

ocrats and the "free but responsible" American bourgeois press insisted that "our government" wouldn't send over 200 innocent airline passengers to their deaths in a monstrous anti-Soviet provocation. Now after the Iran/contras scandal the blinders are being lifted, as people realize that lies and murder are the M.O. of the Reagan gang.

And those who are angriest about it all are the relatives of the victims. On September 9 a press conference was held in Washington to present new evi-

dence just published in David Pearson's *KAL 007: The Cover-Up*. During the discussion period, a young man spoke out:

"Let me answer from a person who lost a mother and father on the flight. I've been living with this thing since... and I've been optimistic [about] having an investigation. I had no idea about the feeling that a lot of information was hidden, and based on the Iran/contras thing—how much can be hidden and destroyed.... There are facts out there, and we're not being allowed to see these facts [as] to what really happened.... What country do we live in, if we can't get a good investigation? What do we pay our taxes for? What kind of defense do we have?"

When a hostile "reporter" from *Aviation Week* tried to shift the blame for the deaths onto the Soviets, another relative, Nan Oldham, shot back that it was the American government's responsibility:

"Our relatives had no business being over Sakhalin, they had no business being over Kamchatka. My son bought his ticket in Greenwich Village, he was going to China to teach for a year. He didn't expect to be used for electronic intelligence or political purpose. He didn't expect to be sent or to go wherever he went. Why don't we know these things? We want both the National Transportation Safety Board and Congress to investigate....

"A commercial flight should act like a commercial flight. It shouldn't go over one naval base and turn and go over another, should it? Don't you think anybody would shoot down [such] a plane?"

As the Congressional Contragate hearings demonstrated in full measure, lies and cover-up are part of the daily routine of American imperialism. As Marxists, we have insisted that the capitalist state will not carry out an "impartial investigation" of the KAL 007 affair, which is anchored on the central axis of the Cold War: smashing the Soviet Union. Will it take a victorious workers revolution to finally open the files on this and the rest of imperialism's crimes? ■

The KAL Tapes

At a September 9 press conference in Washington, D.C., Yale scholar David Pearson presented what he termed the "single most important new piece of evidence" in the investigation of Korean Air Lines (KAL) Flight 007's provocative overflight of sensitive Soviet military regions four years ago. Tapes of background conversations among the Anchorage air traffic controllers on that fateful night show that the U.S. knew the plane was heading for Soviet airspace and deliberately did not stop it. KAL 007 was a U.S. war provocation.

As detailed in Pearson's new book *KAL 007: The Cover-Up*, about an hour and a half after takeoff, at a time when KAL 007 had already made a rightward turn toward Soviet airspace, an air controller tried five times to contact the plane but could not. He initiated a call to a private radio service in an attempt to relay a message, but then inexplicably canceled it. Two minutes later a voice from a loudspeaker (someone elsewhere in the complex, or a military controller at Elmendorf Air Force Base?) announces, "Okay, you guys got someone bumping into the Russians' air defenses over here" (emphasis added). Then come the responses: "Oh, you're kidding," "A person should warn him" and "That's why you should've given the information here, instead of waiting." In the end, no warning was issued, though clearly they perceived the plane was dangerously off course some four hours before the shootdown!

Besides the Anchorage tapes, obtained in 1985 through a Freedom of Information Act request, the investigators also analyzed communications

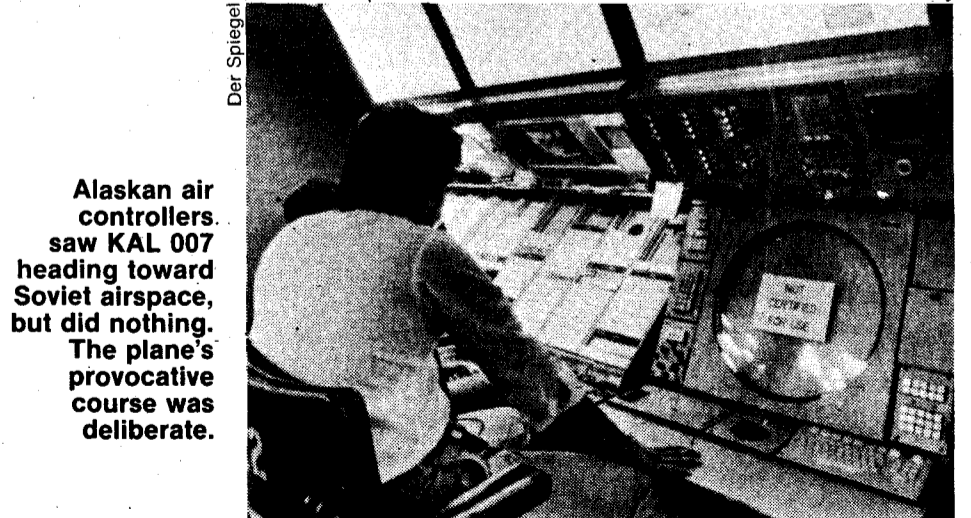
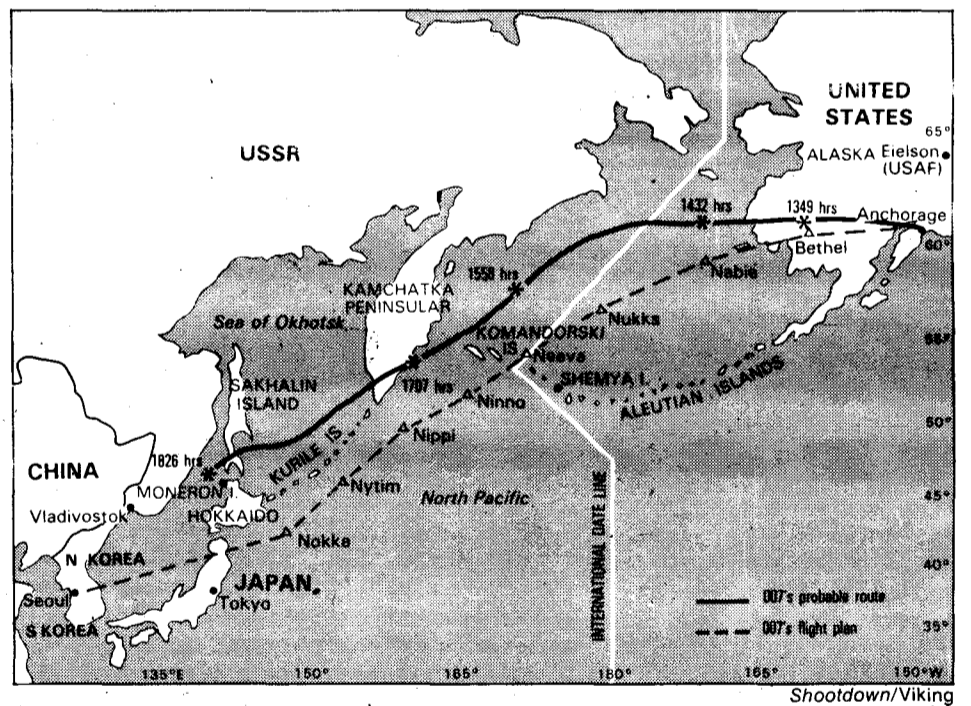
between KAL 007 and Tokyo air traffic controllers. The Tokyo tape was plagued by mysterious noise which blotted out critical pieces of information, in particular the supposed "final" message from KAL 007. But when an acoustics expert compared the official Tokyo tape with an early, partial tape obtained from the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, he found there was no such noise on this early tape. His conclusion: the official tape had been doctored. This is only one example of an elaborate U.S./Japanese governmental cover-up.

Dr. Thomas Amlie, a Pentagon military engineer and scientific/technical adviser for the liberal Fund for Constitutional Government which financed the investigation, added another small bombshell at the press conference: a very reliable source ("whose name I will not reveal to anybody except to the investigators") asserts that "there was a piece of [avionics] equipment on that airplane that didn't belong there." This would fit in with a story which circulated in September 1983 that a KAL plane with the same tail number as that of Flight 007 had been flown into Andrews Air Force Base on August 11, not long before the fateful flight:

"Upon arrival it was taken to the far end of the field to building 1752, operated by E-Systems. E-Systems is a Dallas-based defense and CIA contractor specializing in electronic warfare equipment. There, the Korean airliner was said to have been outfitted with unspecified electronic gear."

—Pearson, *KAL 007: The Cover-Up*

When someone reported this story to Reagan's National Security Adviser



Alaskan air controllers saw KAL 007 heading toward Soviet airspace, but did nothing. The plane's provocative course was deliberate.

William P. Clark, he reportedly went berserk and branded it "Soviet disinformation." That same day the director of the top-secret National Security Agency, Lt. Gen. Lincoln Faurer, "called a number of editors and publishers to

his office to tell them the Andrews story had been fabricated by the Russians." Amlie's revelation lends even more credence to Soviet marshal Nikolai Ogarkov's statement in September 1983 that

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Oakland Meeting Defends Class-War Prisoners

OAKLAND, California—Partisans of the cause of freedom for America's foremost class-war prisoners and other important defense cases gathered here on August 21 at a forum sponsored by the Partisan Defense Committee (PDC) and Bay Area Labor Black League for Social Defense. About 130 people attended the Oakland meeting, held at the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Local 28 hall. Don Alexander, spokesman for the Spartacist League and Labor Black League, centered his remarks on the case of former Black Panther Geronimo Pratt, who has spent 17 years behind bars (eight of them in solitary) on a frame-up murder charge. Among the guest speakers were Dennis Jennings on behalf of American Indian militant Leonard Peltier, a leader of the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee, framed on bogus cop-killing charges; a spokesman for victimized Watsonville cannery strikers; and Constance Scott for the Freedom Socialist Party and its Seattle Freeway Hall case.

Janet McCullough John spoke for the PDC, noting that its work was based on the tradition of the International Labor Defense during the 1920s. "The ILD fused two great traditions," she said, "that of the Wobblies—of militant class struggle and the slogan, 'An injury to one is an injury to all'—with the internationalism of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917." She was greeted by applause as she held aloft the lantern given to the Spartacist League by the National Union of Mineworkers in South Wales. The lantern was a token of appreciation for the PDC's 1984 campaign that raised \$23,000 for the striking British miners. They, in turn, have now joined with American unionists in support of Geronimo Pratt: three NUM locals have sent letters and tele-



An injury to one is an injury to all! Partisan Defense Committee and Bay Area Labor Black League forum brought out 130 people in support of united class-struggle defense.

grams on Pratt's behalf.

There was heartfelt applause again when Partisan Defense Committee counsel Valerie West read a letter from Mordechai Vanunu, the courageous Israeli nuclear technician now on trial in Jerusalem. Vanunu faces the death sentence for his exposure of the Zionist nuclear arsenal: *hundreds* of Israeli warheads aimed not only at every Arab capital but at the Soviet Union itself. All humanity owes this champion of peace a debt of gratitude for alerting the international proletariat to this heightened danger of thermonuclear holocaust.

Carlos Hernández spoke for the Watsonville One Thousand Defense Committee. Having failed to break the union, the company is now trying to intimidate the workforce by framing four cannery workers who defended

their picket line during the hard-fought 18-month strike which ended last March. The strike was *solid*, and the Watsonville strikers are justly proud of it. "When we began this strike, we were one thousand strikers," said Hernández. "When we ended the strike, we were *the same one thousand strikers*." Now he and other union brothers face charges that could put them behind bars for years. All labor must fight to drop the charges against the Watsonville strikers!

Dennis Jennings of the American Indian Movement spoke on behalf of imprisoned militant Leonard Peltier, convicted in 1977 on trumped-up murder charges in the shooting death of two FBI agents on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This racist COINTELPRO frame-up has already stolen ten years of the life of this American Indian leader. A campaign of international pressure recently forced Leavenworth prison authorities to allow Peltier, suffering from a severe eye disorder, to be examined by two Soviet specialists; he has been invited to the Soviet Union for treatment. Jennings said he had accepted the PDC's invitation "because of your work in behalf of Geronimo Pratt." He spoke of the mass petition campaign for Peltier inside the Soviet Union, and read a letter from Peltier sketching his work on behalf of the Indian community: "For this, my work to help people live in peace, I may spend the rest of my life in prison."

The Seattle-based Freedom Socialist Party is the victim of a witchhunting vendetta initiated by a disgruntled ex-member who had donated money in the purchase of a new headquarters after the FSP was evicted from its "Freeway Hall." The FSP has refused to turn over its membership lists, internal documents and minutes of party meetings to the government. Constance Scott of the FSP told the audience that "our members and our organization face financial penalties, the possibility of losing our headquarters, and perhaps jail." The defense of the FSP's principled refusal to disclose their internal documents is vital to the workers movement and critical to all who would defend democratic rights.

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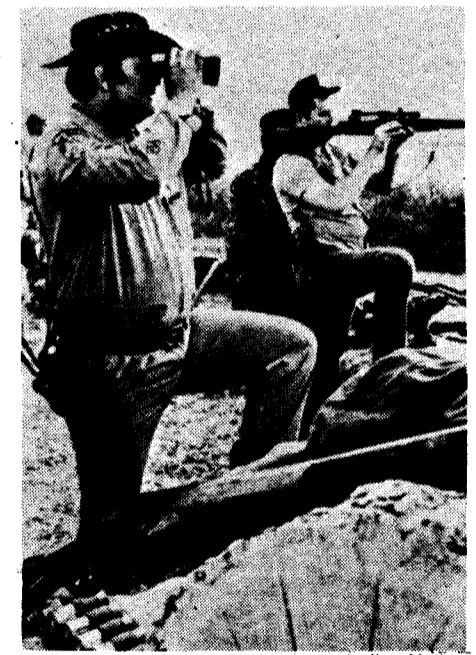
We print below excerpts from the speech of Don Alexander of the Spartacist League and Bay Area Labor Black League:

Reagan, Meese, Rehnquist—they're the criminals who belong in jail, not Geronimo Pratt. They belong in the jailhouse for their enormous and bloody

crimes against working people and minorities abroad and at home—from Tripoli to Managua to Philadelphia. From J. Edgar Hoover's FBI targeting of Marcus Garvey for imprisonment, to the FBI and so-called "Justice" Department disruption, surveillance, harassment of M.L. King and other civil rights activists, to their bloody campaign of extermination of the Panthers—the racist capitalist rulers seek the destruction of militant black struggle which could open the road to general social struggle and the possibility of thousands of blacks becoming reds.

Of the 295 FBI COINTELPRO operations against the black organizations in the '60s and early '70s, 233 of them were against the Panthers. Thirty-eight Panthers were murdered by the state, hundreds were arrested, many driven into exile, countless suffered preventive detention—this happened in the land of freedom for the capitalists. Geronimo Pratt was framed. You name it, and they've reached far down into their grimy bag of dirty tricks in order to destroy him. We have to redouble our efforts to free him. While we favor all legal efforts to free him, we place absolutely no confidence in the capitalist courts, cops and politicians, but only in the independent mobilizations of the working people and the oppressed.

People here remember that Reagan was trying to crush black militancy in the '60s while he was governor of California and Meese was his assistant. They oversaw the war of extermination against the Panthers. In the late '60s,



Wounded Knee, 1973: Rifle-toting U.S. marshals besiege American Indian protesters.

Rehnquist fought to jail a *New York Times* reporter, Earl Caldwell, for refusing to turn over his records and photographs on the Panthers for prosecution. The Panther leaders were cut down by the state in the most savage and systematic murder campaign ever seen in the modern-day United States. And we have fought to invoke their memory in our fight against "McCarthyism with a drawn gun," in our successful fight against the attempt by the FBI, Reagan, etc., to set us up as terrorist outlaws to be blown away in the dead of night.

We defend Pratt and all class-war prisoners as an integral and consistent part of our struggle for world socialism. We have raised the call for his freedom internationally. British coal miners have called for his freedom. Radio Moscow reported on the February rally [the

continued on page 12



AP

Savage COINTELPRO murder campaign against black leadership. Los Angeles Black Panther Party headquarters hit by mass cop "search and destroy" operation, December 1969. Former L.A. Panther leader Geronimo Pratt (right), America's foremost class-war prisoner, must be freed!



WV Photo

Young Spartacus

"Peace" Hoax Imperils Nicaraguan Masses

Eyewitness Reports from Spartacist Brigadistas

Young Spartacus Photos



Left: Mary Jo with fellow worker in Managua. Mural for military service reads: "Whatever the cost, we'll go to the end." Judith (in dark shirt with shovel) at work with fellow brigadistas on construction site for ISCA university.

In conjunction with our "Nicabucks" campaign to raise hard currency for the defense of Nicaragua, Spartacus Youth Clubs have organized an ambitious speaking tour of Spartacist brigadistas recently returned from embattled Nicaragua. Comrades and friends have presented eyewitness accounts and slide shows, and a Trotskyist analysis of the road forward for the Nicaraguan Revolution.

Mary Jo Marino, a CCNY student and New York City transit worker, donated a month's labor in Nicaragua as an industrial electrician. SYC brigadistas Dan and Judith recently returned from work building a soil testing facility for the ISCA university near Managua. We print here edited excerpts from Mary Jo's forum at Columbia University on September 11, Judith's eyewitness account given at Oberlin University on September 15, and Dan's diary.

A central topic of discussion at these SYC events has been the treacherous "peace" plan accepted by the FSLN and promoted by Democratic Party liberals and U.S. client states in Central America. Yet even as the Sandinista government tries to appease Washington by implementing a unilateral truce and reopening "La Prensa" and a reactionary clerical radio station as a gesture of "good will," Reagan declares that "communist Nicaragua is, in fact, a Soviet beachhead in the Americas," and is gearing up to request another \$270 million in contra aid.

A "peace" of paper solves nothing. The struggle continues and a Trotskyist party is urgently needed to bring down the anti-Soviet warmongers in this

country and to lead the masses to victory in Nicaragua as well.

* * *

Mary Jo:

I'm sure that the position on the peace treaty is something that is not immediately clear to people. This peace treaty is an attempt by the Democrats and the various rulers of the other Central American countries to freeze the revolution in Nicaragua right where it is, and to stop the spread of revolution through the rest of Central America. This peace

treaty will not bring peace.

What does it mean to say there will be amnesty for the contras and for the National Guard? It means that the people that are killing the sons of the workers and peasants in the northern provinces and along the Costa Rican border, as well as the National Guardsmen that are currently in jail, will be free to walk the streets with the families of their victims. And it's a real knife in the back to the Salvadoran insurgents, who are actually in an advantageous position in Salvador right now. There are many

Salvadoran refugees who currently live in Nicaragua and are able to politically organize. The implementation of this treaty would definitely mean a move against these political refugees.

Many have argued that the peace treaty will provide a little breathing space for Nicaragua to develop peacefully. But FSLN leader Omar Cabezas said straight out that what this means is that there's going to be more space for the right wing to organize. Furthermore the population is presently armed

continued on page 8

no credit



Militawomen at Bluefields. Nicaraguan women play active role in production and defense. SYC Nicabucks campaign raises funds for material aid to embattled Nicaragua. Order buttons (\$2.00) and send contributions to: Student Committee to Defend Nicaragua, c/o Box 3118 Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008. Every dollar donated goes to Nicaragua.

Spartacist Brigadistas...

(continued from page 7)

and organized. What if some of these armed militias go take direct action against *La Prensa*? What's the government going to do? They would have to crack heads, and move against the people within Nicaragua who oppose this betrayal—and there will be those people, believe me.

If they invite back the big landlords, what happens to the agrarian policy in Nicaragua? Already many of the peasants have never received land, because very early on the Sandinista government said "whoa, stop, wait" to the peasants who seized estates. If they invite all these big landlords back, will these peasants ever have land? What will happen to the cooperative movement if these big landowners return? Already opposition demonstrations have been demanding a return of confiscated property, and a dissolution of the Sandinista Defense Committees—in other words, they want to smash the organizations of the people. So obviously this also signals more concessions to the capitalist class.

I'm sure people are aware of the work of Ben Linder, who was bringing electricity to the rural villages. If this kind of "peace" went through, would these villages ever see electricity? Or how about health care? Would that once again become a luxury of a few people? One of the good things the Sandinistas did was open up education to the sons and daughters of the workers and peasants. If there is a reversal, will it once again be simply the domain of the sons and daughters of the bourgeoisie and the better-off middle class? What about women? Will they ever win the right to abortion and day care under a "peace"



Andy Peri

Contra war comes home: Brian Willson (center) protesting on tracks before munitions train ran him down.

aimed at further conciliating the Catholic church?

At City College one fellow raised his hand and said, "Well, if this peace plan is so detrimental to Nicaragua, why would Ortega sign it?" One has to look at what the Sandinistas are and what they really represent. Despite the fact that the papers here are always saying that they're some kind of hard-core Marxist revolutionaries, really what they are is nationalists.

The FSLN believes that there can be social progress in Nicaragua without expropriating the capitalist class, that they can have a bloc with the "patriotic" bourgeoisie in the country and go forward. Their perspective internationally is that they would like to see a more friendly administration in Washington. That means the Democratic Party. From their point of view the possibility of ever having a revolution in the United

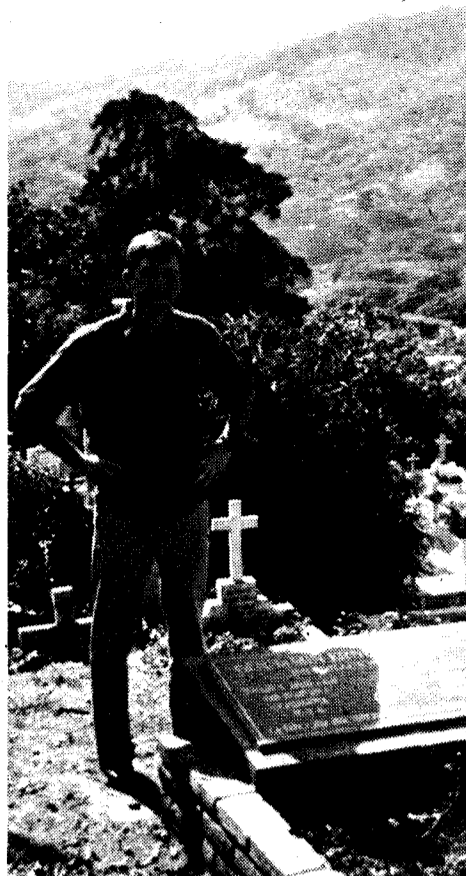


BENJAMIN ERNEST LINDER
1959 - 1987

NICAT

Benjamin Linder, internacionalista, murdered by U.S. contra terrorists.

Comrade Dan at Ben Linder's grave in Matagalpa, an honored site for young defenders of the Nicaraguan Revolution.



Young Spartacus

States is as far out as Star Wars. Because of their framework of nationalism, they do not even look to furthering revolutions in countries like El Salvador or Guatemala, or more importantly Mexico.

Now a lot of people have been arguing that this plan is good because at least it's a Central American initiative. No. This is not a Central American initiative. This peace plan was basically written by Senator Dodd and adopted and promoted by Arias in the region. Because Reagan's contra war has failed, they want to step in, they want a chance to try their tactics to stop things cold. Remember the history of the Democratic Party: Walter Mondale ran for president on a program to quarantine Nicaragua.

The Democrats have been very clear that should the Sandinistas do anything so wild as to accept MIGs from the Soviet government, they would support bombing them off the map. If they're so interested in peace in Central America, why is it that they so routinely vote aid to the contras and Duarte's death squad "democracy" in El Salvador?

The Democrats have often been the ones to execute and escalate the wars that the Republicans have laid the ground for—remember Vietnam. When we put before you the possibility of fighting to complete and extend the Nicaraguan Revolution and joining our Nicabucks campaign of material aid to defend Nicaragua, the alternative that you're seeing from the "solidarity" movement is to go lobby the Democrats. There is a fundamental problem here: the Democrats, too, want to strangle this revolution.

One of the important things here is that peace is not going to be decided by a piece of paper. And a sellout is not something that is going to go over easy. These people have not had their sons and daughters fight and die to hand back to the exploiters everything that they feel that they have won.

* * *

Judith:

I went to Nicaragua to show my solidarity with that revolution and to donate my labor for work on a construction project, something that could be used in the future by the Nicaraguan people. This was a very valuable experience, to be able to talk with Nicaraguans who don't have any illusions that the Democratic Party is any alternative to the Republicans. They remember that the Bay of Pigs invasion was launched from Nicaragua by John F. Kennedy. They knew of the oppression of workers and minorities in the U.S. and are

very supportive of the *brigadistas*.

My first weekend I went to Matagalpa, which is about 90 kilometers north of Managua in mountainous territory. This is where a lot of contras hide out and carry out their attacks, mostly against the campesino cooperatives. One of my fellow *brigadistas* brought balloons to give to the children, and the whole neighborhood came out. Matagalpa is very poor, and these kids had infected faces, infected feet, distended bellies, no clothes.

Ben Linder was buried in Matagalpa. To symbolize the happiness that he brought to many Nicaraguan children when he worked with the Managua circus, his gravestone is engraved with a unicycle, a dove and some balls in a circle. At the cemetery where Ben Linder is buried, graves are allotted for another 17,500 people—the future victims of contra terror, yet to be put into the ground.

Franco, one of the Nicaraguans I worked with on the construction project, was from Jinotega, which is an area right outside of Matagalpa. One day, while working in Matagalpa, contras stormed down the hill and killed one of his coworkers. Everyone who worked on this project was armed, so Franco turned around and killed the contra and was awarded medals for that. He has brothers who fight in the military and already lost two to the contra murderers in 1983. Franco was in the reserve army. He left our construction project for military service on the same day that the contras murdered an older woman and a nine-year-old girl and burned down 29 houses on a cooperative outside his hometown of Jinotega. All of us *brigadistas* felt that Franco would

avenge this.

All of the skilled workers on our project were Nicaraguans. My foreman, Gustavo, and I would sit around at lunchtime and talk about the revolution. I asked him what he thought about Soviet aid and he said, "Well, what do they want us to fight with? All we have here is rocks and axes." Every day, very effective Soviet military helicopters would fly overhead, which made us feel very safe and secure.

At the University of Central America (UCA) the FSLN runs a preparatory school for campesinos who fought in the military and never received any secondary education. The university student population has doubled in Nicaragua since 1978. Students get their books and tuition paid for, and according to their needs, they can also get subsidized transportation, food and housing. Youth attend school until they're 16 or 17 years old and then go into the military. You see everybody reading around Nicaragua. The bookstores are filled with Marxist literature, science books, novels—most published in the Soviet Union and Cuba and which cost only about a dime.

I had a chance to talk to one of the leaders of the Juventud (the Sandinista youth organization) and we had a big argument over amnesty. This guy had just come back from spending five weeks in the hills handing letters over to contra families, appealing to them to call on members of their families to lay down their arms. He lost a lot of friends who were killed by the contras and he admitted that "sometimes when they hand over their arms, the first thing I want to do is blow them away." This amnesty is a betrayal by the Sandinistas.



Barreto/NY Times

"Peace" plan reopens contra mouthpiece. We say: Shut down *La Prensa* for good!

tas—and the majority of the people I met were opposed to it.

Everybody that I met in Nicaragua was also opposed to reopening *La Prensa*. By giving a voice to these counterrevolutionaries known as *La Prensa*, the FSLN is essentially giving them the right to kill. These scum advocate taking up arms against the Sandinistas and overthrowing the government. These guys are also the mouthpiece for the black marketeers who sabotage the economy and are a great threat to the proletariat.

There's a beautiful statue in downtown Managua inscribed with the slogan, "Only the workers and peasants will go to the end." We recognize the hope embodied in that, but for the revolution to be consolidated and made permanent requires a Trotskyist leadership to carry out a program to expropriate the bourgeoisie and extend the revolution throughout Central America and beyond.

In Nicaragua, the Democrats and Republicans want to score a "win" in their anti-Soviet war drive. They seek to crush the Nicaraguan Revolution because it is a tremendous inspiration to the workers and oppressed people of all the world, including to youth and black and Hispanic workers in this country. Our job is to put an end to imperialism once and for all by putting an end to capitalism here in this country.

* * *



Young Spartacist

"Peace" plan calls for amnesty for Somozaist killers. Nicaraguan mother grieves while telling brigadistas of savage murder of her son.

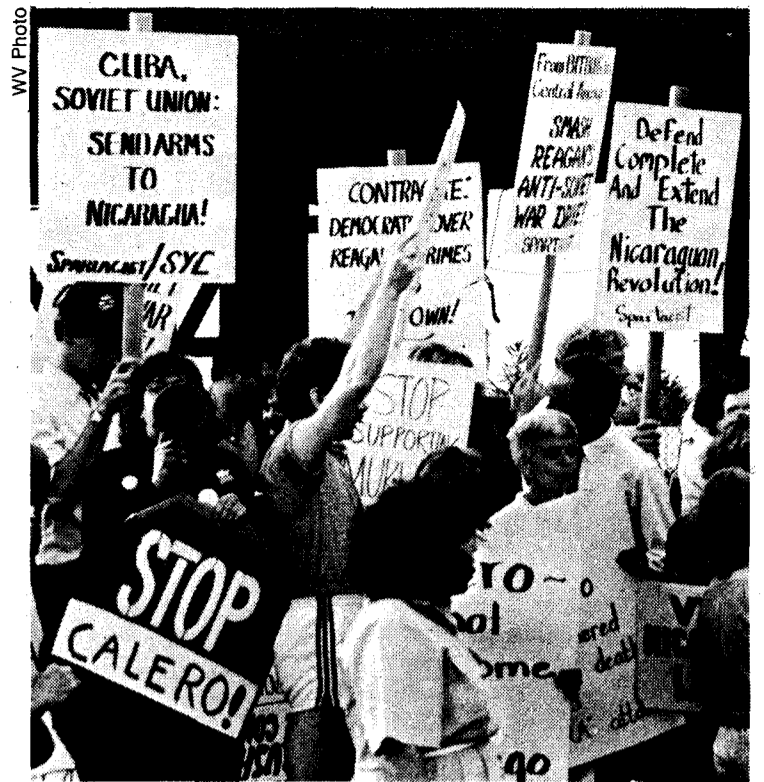
Dan:

August 19: We met with the FSLN women's organization, AMNLAE. A representative of the organization stressed the gains for women since the revolution. In 1977 the literacy rate for women was 7 percent, last year it was 87 percent. Special hospitals have been opened up for women and women now take an active part in defense and production. The new Nicaraguan constitution states that women have equal rights—pretty significant when you think that the ERA can't even get passed in the U.S.

The AMNLAE representative was uncomfortable and hedged when asked about abortion. She told her skeptical audience that abortion was a "divisive issue" and that only when the war was over would the question be taken up. It is obvious that the Sandinistas are caving in to pressure from the Catholic church and trying to appease the counterrevolutionary opposition. Many women's lives are lost because of the ban on abortions. Reagan calls the Sandinistas "Communists," but real communists, the Bolsheviks, made abortion legal over 60 years ago in the Soviet Union.

August 22: Hitched out to a cooperative run by Salvadoran refugees about six kilometers outside Estelí. Nicaragua is a beacon for Salvadorans fleeing junta terror. Here they are given land, seeds, tools, schools, and a chance to

Chicago Spartacists join protest against contra war criminal Adolfo Calero, July 18.



start over. But only a small number make it to Nicaragua. Salvadorans who are caught on the dangerous journey through Honduras are put in concentration camps and many others who try to cross the Gulf of Fonseca in small boats are shot out of the water. Although everyone in this region of Nicaragua is armed, the Sandinistas try to allay the concerns of the "international community" by keeping Salvadoreños unarmed. It's suicidal even to cut sugar cane without your AK-47 here. Four weeks ago during the eighth anniversary festivities contras burned Soviet-made tractors and killed a health care worker at a nearby cooperative.

August 24: Visited the Toña beer factory this morning. It's privately owned by a millionaire who's now in Miami. Workers work 12-hour shifts and earn about \$15 a month. It was infuriating to see over 20 percent of the product flowing down floor drains because faulty parts in a bottling machine can't be replaced due to the U.S. embargo (all the equipment here was made in Milwaukee). But now they use Czechoslo-

vakian malt, so it's good beer.

A kilometer away on the other side of the highway, we visited the state-owned Fanatex textile factory. Here workers work eight-hour shifts for \$12 a month. As workers returned from lunch, a Sandinista spokeswoman urged them to sign up for volunteer work because the plant was behind quota. Workers listened quietly with their arms crossed. How many must be fuming at being asked to work voluntary overtime as a patriotic duty while the FSLN refuses to expropriate the beer baron across the street who never reinvests a cent of his profits!

Sept. 4: The bloodthirsty attempted murder of Brian Willson, run down by a train carrying weapons eventually bound for the contras, made front-page headlines in the papers here. *Barricada* stressed that Willson was a Vietnam veteran and that he was run down while practicing civil disobedience. It was announced that Ortega's wife is going to visit Willson in the hospital, to convey the deep admiration of the Nicaraguan people for his courage in standing up to the U.S. war machine. ■

AIA Retraction...

(continued from page 10)

organization notorious as a front for right wing machinations), they now have forced the notorious 'Accuracy in Academia' to retract as well. Libelous statements that anyone 'advocates violence,' especially against the police, are part of a continuing attempt to equate speech with action and to blur the line between the two, so that somebody's 'violent' thoughts and speech can become an excuse for actual violence by their opponents, inside and outside the government... By showing courage on this occasion, the Spartacists have eliminated dangers for all of us; and we should all be grateful."

Ann N. Micheline
Officer, American Association of University Professors*
(Cincinnati)

Defend Free Speech

"I have just read the news of the June 19, 1987, settlement of the Spartacist League libel suit filed against 'Accuracy in Academia.' Even though I have my political differences with SL and my own constitutional problems with libel laws, I have absolutely no reservations in my unmitigated opposition to the AIA and its persecutive tactics. Freedom for all is endangered by the articulated purposes and the demonstrated tactics of AIA. Whenever any individual or group monitors the

content of speech, the result is ideological conformity, self-censorship, and infringement of the freedom of speech and association.

"I applaud your victory. My own investigation of Accuracy in Academia has convinced me that these 'virtuous' and 'right-thinking' watchdogs use political pressure, spies, and intimidation in their attempts to insure that the classroom is swept clean of all 'dirt' and 'untruth' as defined by the AIA censors. The Spartacist League victory against AIA is an important victory for all of us who believe that individuals in our society have a right to be exposed to all ideas and to make choices among those ideas.

We do not need witchhunters, spies, or monitors who abridge access to certain ideas and fetter the freedom of each student and teacher to read, write, hear, speak, think, and choose."

Nancy G. McDermid
Dean, School of Humanities
San Francisco State University*

Can't Ignore AIA

"In the fall of 1986 a student in my class in the Law and Justice Program ('Authority, Liberty and Law') anonymously claimed that he was monitoring the course for Accuracy in Academia.... After one of my lectures a Nazi

sticker was pasted on my office door with the Swastika and a 'stop all immigration' slogan. The sticker was affixed to a statement of Martin Niemöller which I had posted on my door: 'In Germany they first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me—and by that time no one was left to speak up'....

"The purpose of Accuracy in Academia like the Moral Majority and the American Nazi Party is to intimidate and silence anyone who even slightly disagrees with them. While we cannot overestimate their power and organization neither can we ignore them. My response will be to teach more about fascism not less."

Charley Shively
Professor
Law and Justice Program
University of Massachusetts,*
Boston

Evil Irvine

"Reed Irvine is one of the principal apologists for neo-fascist ideology in the world today!"

Chip Berlet
Secretary, National Lawyers
Guild Civil Liberties Committee*

* Organizational and university affiliation listed for purposes of identification only. ■

February 1987: Spartacists picket ABC's anti-Communist soap opera *Amerika*, brain child of witchhunter Reed Irvine.



Campus Contras Cry Uncle

CAMPUS REPORT
from Accuracy in Academia

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JULY-AUGUST, 1987
Volume 11, Number 7

In an important victory for democratic rights, the Spartacist League won a libel lawsuit against the malicious witchhunters of "Accuracy in Academia" (AIA). In a pamphlet titled "Appeasing the Censors: A Special Report on Campus Free Speech Abuses," AIA invented and peddled a libel that kills: that Spartacist publications "urge...the killing of police officers." As a result of our suit, AIA was forced to print a prominent retraction in the July/August issue of AIA's *Campus Report*.

The settlement was reached on June 19 when AIA, its executive director Laszlo Csorba, and Reed Irvine, AIA's founder and head of "Accuracy in Media," admitted their deadly lies were utterly false. While "Big Brother" Irvine and little brother Csorba squirmed with embarrassment, the SL's attorney Jonathan Lubell proclaimed the settlement "a total victory" in a statement carried by Associated Press. UPI also carried a story on AIA's retraction, as did the *Wall Street Journal* and a number of campus and black community newspapers.

Successfully forcing these campus contras to back down is especially important now as the dirty contra war comes home with the attempted murder of Brian Willson, brutally maimed outside a California naval base for protesting U.S. war moves on Nicaragua. As Reagan's domestic shock troops, AIA is the living embodiment of what we've called "McCarthyism with a drawn gun." From spying on, harassing and intimidating liberal and leftist professors to lauding physical violence such as the sledgehammer attack on students in an anti-apartheid shanty at Dartmouth, AIA cuts a wide swath. We found support for our case among the many victims and intended targets of these sinister thought cops. As Saul Landau, an early target of AIA, wrote us: "Everyone attacked by AIA should fight back. Glad you won!" Other letters of congratulation are reprinted below.

A Real "Mitzvah"

"I congratulate the SL on its successful libel suit against Accuracy in Academia (AIA). I wish I could say that this will keep these ultrareactionaries honest. It won't. But it will make them more careful, a little less wild in their charges,

Don't mess with the Spartacist League! AIA forced to retract deadly libel in July/August issue of Campus Report.

Correction

AIA and Laszlo Csorba now admit the falsity of a statement contained in a pamphlet published and distributed by them that the Spartacist League in its "publications (*Workers Vanguard*, *Young Spartacus*, and *The Spartacus* (sic) urge . . . the killing of police officers." This statement about the Spartacist League is false.

"Accuracy in Academia" Eats Its Deadly Lies

and therefore a little less dangerous to everyone' on the left. You've done a real 'mitzvah' this time."

Bertell Ollman
Professor of Political Science
New York University*

Good Offense

"Your recent victory over AIA demonstrates once again that the best defense against anti-communist witchhunters is a powerful offense based on truth. Congratulations!"

Richard Rubenstein
Author and Professor
of Public Affairs
George Mason University*

Right on Target

"...The Spartacist League picks its targets extremely well. After attacking a libel by the followers of Rev. Moon (an

continued on page 9



California Aggie

Inaccurate and not academic: pipsqueak McCarthyite Les Csorba with drawn gun. Csorba & Co. would purge universities of leftists as his personal hero, death squad leader D'Aubuisson, did in El Salvador. SL suit is blow against campus witchhunters.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Watchdog Group Concedes It Was Too Quick to Bite

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter
NEW YORK—Accuracy in Academia makes mistakes, too.

The watchdog group had said in a 1986 pamphlet that the Spartacist League, a New York based Marxist group, urged "the killing of police officers" in some publications. But, in a libel-suit settlement filed in federal court, Accuracy in Academia admitted the statement was false and agreed to publish a retraction in its monthly newspaper, *Campus Report*.

THE CAMPUS

Hail Spartacist!

The Spartacist League has filed a libel lawsuit against "Accuracy in Academia, Inc." [AIA], its executive director Laszlo Csorba.

diamondback

1987's real Big Brother

The Spartacist League has filed a libel lawsuit against "Accuracy in Academia, Inc." [AIA], its executive director Laszlo Csorba. AIA's attempt to equate our forthright Marxist politics with terrorism is a common and deadly error. Police have a long list of other groups targeted in this manner.

California Aggie

Witchhunts and smear tactics

The Spartacist League has filed a libel lawsuit against "Accuracy in Academia, Inc." [AIA], its executive director Laszlo Csorba. In the last two years, with a libel lawsuit against "Accuracy in Academia, Inc." [AIA], its executive director Laszlo Csorba, and Reed Irvine, AIA's founder and head of "Accuracy in Media," admitted their deadly lies were utterly false.

METRO REPORTER

Spartacists Announce Victory Against "Accuracy In Academia"

The Spartacist League, a Marxist political organization, has announced a victory for democracy in its publication *Workers Vanguard*. The Spartacist League, a Marxist political organization, has announced a victory for democracy in its publication *Workers Vanguard*.

Phoenix

RADICAL RIGHT

It may not quite rank up there with the celebrated Abbie Hoffman and Amy Carter.

BIG RED NEWS

AIA "Witch Hunters" Retract Deadly Libel

The Spartacist League, a Marxist political organization, has announced a victory for democracy in its publication *Workers Vanguard*. The Spartacist League, a Marxist political organization, has announced a victory for democracy in its publication *Workers Vanguard*.

THE DAILY CARDINAL

Sparts win

To the Editor:

The Spartacist League, a Marxist political organization, has announced a victory for democracy in its publication *Workers Vanguard*.

ucla daily bruin

Spartacist League challenges Accuracy in Academia

By Timothy Reid

El Salvador), in order to isolate the left and scare professors from association with such groups. It seeks more broadly to charge liberal faculty members and allegedly compliant administrators with genocide, without protest.

In the last two years, with a resurgence of student protest against U.S. war moves on Nicaragua and opposition to the racist apartheid regime, AIA has

Reagan's Amerika...

(continued from page 1)

Education Week (4 August) first exposed what Reagan's board of censors was up to, forcing Education Department spokesman Ronald Preston to admit that the "significance panel" and its criticism of the Holocaust program was "a disaster.... We bungled it." Once the lid was blown, Preston tried to control the damage, declaring that Christina Price, the panelist who wrote the Nazi comment, would be taken off the list of teachers used in the reviews. He tried to shrug it off, saying, "You never know what these independent people on the outside [panels] are necessarily going to say."

What would you expect from the bunch who brought you Bitburg? According to *Education Week*, Price has been a supporter of Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum since her days in "the anti-ERA movement" against equal rights for women. She said she'd been selected for the panel by Shirley Curry, an Education Department director who also reportedly has close ties to Schlafly. Schlafly is part of the "High Frontier" lobby that supports a massive military buildup to kill Russians. A former John Birch Society member, Schlafly got her witchhunting anti-communist Big Lie training as a former "researcher" for Senator Joe McCarthy. Her program for women could be summed up by the Nazi slogan, "*Kinder, Küche, Kirche*" (children, kitchen and church)—which spells KKK any way you look at it.

Christina Price, this self-described "politically neutral" "mother of four," is currently a political science teacher at Kennesaw College in Marietta, Georgia, home of the Ku Klux Klan and former John Bircher Congressman Larry McDonald (who went down on KAL Flight 007). At the time of her panel review, Price was teaching at Troy State University in Alabama, where fundamentalist bigots got a reactionary judge to ban "secular humanist" textbooks.

And Price is no isolated nut. Some federal panel—these guys read more like



Anne Frank Fonds, Basel/Comapress
Anne Frank. Her diary showed millions the horror of Nazi occupation.



OUTRAGE! Reagan's Department of Education tried to whitewash Nazi Holocaust. Right: fascists publicly execute young Jewish partisans in Minsk, USSR, 1941. Nazism isn't a "point of view"—it's genocide.



TASS from Sovfoto



May 1985: Reagan salutes Nazi SS at Bitburg in service of anti-Soviet war drive.

a list of people who ought to be deported for Nazi war crimes! WV obtained copies from the Department of Education of the original reviews, which are filled with anti-Communist apologies for racist terror. One complained that "the only companion mentioned to be set beside the Nazi extermination policy is the Ku Klux Klan," while "killings in Vietnam, Cuba, Ethiopia and Afghanistan are ignored." Both Price and another reviewer say the course is not needed, because *The Diary of Anne Frank* is "common reading material." They obscenely use this young Jewish victim of Nazism to try to bury the Holocaust!

Funding for "Facing History" was again denied this August, after a new panel complained of a "profoundly anti-Christian bias," that was "offensive to fundamentalists and evangelicals." One reviewer wrapped it all up ideologically, saying the program had an "overt and consistent bias—anti-war, anti-hunting; on restrictions on immigration equated with Nazism... proposed discussion on draft might induce young men to break law by not registering." It's pretty clear who this guy wants to hunt—and it's not the Nazis. The

director and co-author of "Facing History," Margo Stern Strom, angrily complained of the "inane, ignorant and scandalous views" of the reviewers.

For Reagan's second term in office, their super-conservative Heritage Foundation think tank proposed turning the Education Department into a "bully pulpit" for "Americans with sound ideas." This is the result. Reagan's education secretary William Bennett made his debut by announcing that too many people go to college and slashing school lunches. Now they are pushing fascist and racist filth in a nationwide crusade. In California, the chairman of the Bicentennial Commission for the U.S. Constitution, Jane Crosby, a John Bircher appointed by Governor Deukmejian, got the Commission to sponsor a racist textbook that called American black slaves "pickaninnies" and claimed slaveowners were the real victims of the system!

This isn't a matter of academic "points of view" but justifying lynching! So-called "revisionist historians"—that is, apologists for Nazism—have been pushing the obscene lie that the Holocaust maybe didn't happen, or it's a question of "interpretation." In

France, the fascist Le Pen—a candidate for the French presidency—recently said that the Nazi gas chambers were a "minor point of history." Le Pen's fascists are in action on the streets, murdering Arab immigrants, beating up leftists, terrorizing the oppressed. Theirs are lies that kill.

The U.S. imperialists do not want the history of the Nazi Holocaust taught in the schools. They do not want American kids to learn that the government imported tens of thousands of Nazi killers into this country after the war, to use as agents and spies against the Russians. They do not want it learned that just last Passover top cop Ed Meese went skulking around asking Latin American dictators to harbor Nazi butcher Karl Linnas, to prevent him from being returned to Estonia to face the wrath of his surviving victims. They do not want the Nazi terror studied. Maybe the comparisons to the methods of Reagan's favorite terrorists, the CIA-contras, are too clear. During the Conragate hearings, it came out (despite attempts of the "loyal opposition" Democratic Party to stop it) that the Reagan government has its own plans for military takeover of America and concentration camps for immigrants, blacks, and all opponents of this fanatic, crazed anti-Communist regime.

Thousands of Americans who died in World War II thought they were fighting Nazism. But Ronald Reagan represents that section of the American ruling class who think the U.S. was on the wrong side. When Reagan went to Bitburg, it was chilling proof of the determination to openly embrace the Nazis in the name of anti-Communism. They hope to finish up where the genocidal Third Reich left off when the Red Army smashed Hitler's Operation Barbarossa. They want to crush the Soviet Union and roll back the Bolshevik Revolution. They don't want the Holocaust remembered. They're planning their own nuclear holocaust against the Soviet Union. We had better stop them soon. ■

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Reagan's Amerika: anti-Soviet war drive fuels racist terror.

BT Covers for COINTELPRO

The fight to free Geronimo Pratt is the cause of every genuine enemy of racist injustice. But at the August 21 Oakland forum, the dubious Bolshevik Tendency (BT) repeated its despicable slander that Pratt is in prison not because of the government's murderous COINTELPRO drive to wipe out the Black Panthers, but because of "Panther sectarianism." BTer Gerald Smith spat on the graves of the 38 Panthers murdered by COINTELPRO when he said:

"...it was blind factionalism and sectarianism on the part of the Panther leadership that undermined a possible defense for Geronimo Pratt in the beginning.... In our opinion, it was sectarianism that put brother Geronimo Pratt behind bars in the first place, and it will take a principled struggle against sectarianism, including the sectarianism of the Spartacist League, to free him."

Blaming the victims for the crime, the BT parrots the FBI Big Lie that it was the Panthers' own fault they were killed. The BT's new twist is to extend the lie to include the Spartacist League. Smith's nauseating echo of government propaganda was a regurgitation of his speech at the February 21 Oakland rally for Pratt's freedom initiated by the PDC and Labor Black League for Social Defense. At that event BT guru Howard Keylor tried to leap onto the stage, while they

obscenely attempted to donate *one dollar* to Pratt's defense (see "BT Provocation Lands in the Mud," *WV* No. 423, 6 March).

After the BT staged a violent provocation at a Spartacist forum on 19 September 1986, which instantly brought the racist Berkeley campus cops onto the scene, the SL instituted a policy of searching BTers at the door to our forums in order to ensure the safety of all participants and the rights of all to an orderly and democratic meeting. After showing up at a subsequent SL forum with a kit of clanking hardware, the BT announced in stentorian tones that they refused to submit to a search. At the August 21

Oakland forum they ended up permitting themselves to be searched, albeit with loud histrionics. When they asked guest speaker Dennis Jennings of the American Indian Movement what he thought about their being "singled out" for a search, Jennings calmly replied that his organization always reserves the right to search anyone wishing to enter its meetings.

One group that did swallow the BT's sucker bait was the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP), which protested from the podium in solidarity with the BT's complaints. But then the FSP does seem to have a hard time recognizing provocation. After all, it has yet to disavow its fervid enthusiasm and PR service for "Miskito Indian leader" Brooklyn Rivera, a Nicaraguan contra mercenary now publicly identified as being on the CIA's payroll.

Oakland Forum...

(continued from page 6)

labor-centered Oakland demonstration initiated by the PDC and LBL]. We need to continue to find ways to broaden this call to other places. The Labor Black League for Social Defense stands for mobilizing the masses of black and working people for militant integrated struggle against racist capitalism. The LBL was initiated by and is fraternally allied to the Spartacist League and is part of the revolutionary movement of the workers and oppressed against the bosses and for socialism.

This is a government of war abroad and at home. Reagan has virtually ended sectoralism: the Klan-backed Reagan hates everybody *except* the rich capitalists. The bloody contras, the Afghan feudalist cutthroats, apartheid slavery, abortion clinic bombers, Nazis

and Klansmen, and the Contra Democrats are right up there beside him. They want to bleed us to death to pay for their bipartisan anti-Soviet war drive.

It took a civil war to emancipate black people from chattel slavery and it will take a third American revolution, a workers revolution, to finish the Civil War and to establish full equality between the races and working-class emancipation. On the LBL's membership card is a statement once made by Karl Marx, a German communist and the founder of scientific socialism. Marx said labor in a white skin can't be free if it is branded in the black. Labor must fight for black freedom and freedom for all of the oppressed. That's where the social power is and guided by a class-struggle program and a class-struggle revolutionary party the working people can turn the world upside down and set it on new foundations.

We Trotskyists fight for revolutionary integrationism, for black liberation through proletarian revolution as the

Oakland, February 21: rally initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee and Labor Black League demands freedom for Geronimo Pratt.



only road to black freedom. Key to such struggle is breaking with the Democratic Party and forging a revolutionary workers party. Geronimo Pratt and all class-war prisoners can only be freed through massive, united class struggle and no reliance on the bourgeois state.

Freedom now for Geronimo Pratt! Free all class-war prisoners! Help build a Trotskyist vanguard party to lead the workers and the oppressed to power by joining with the Spartacist League and the Labor Black League for Social Defense. ■

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KAL Tapes...

(continued from page 5)

KAL 007 was emitting "periodically transmitted brief coded signals." This was a spy plane.

Soviet air marshal Piotr Kirsanov provided detailed evidence four years ago that the flight of KAL 007 was "strictly synchronized" with the orbit of a U.S. "ferret" spy satellite. The Western press buried this report, but we found evidence that the U.S. had indeed launched such a "ferret" on 20 June 1983, only weeks before the fatal flight (*WV* No. 350, "Reagan's KAL 007 Plot Unravels," 16 March 1984). Washington was particularly obsessed with a newly discovered Soviet phased array radar, located at Abalakova in Siberia, which the Reaganauts feared would foil their plans for a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union.

More recent evidence indicates the U.S. also launched yet another spy satellite specifically aimed at Abalako-

va on 31 July 1983. Code-named Jumpseat, the top-secret satellite's "job is to take precise measurements of high-performance phased array...radars (such as the huge one at Abalakova)," according to William E. Burrows' revealing 1986 book on spy satellites, *Deep Black*. With the satellites and other intelligence listening posts in place, all the U.S. needed to do was to provoke the Soviet defense systems, and record the signals. Enter KAL 007.

Ironically, last month—in the spirit of *glasnost* (openness) and seeking an arms control agreement—the ruling Soviet Politburo permitted a delegation of U.S. Congressmen to tour the top-secret Abalakova radar site and take over 1,000 pictures, inside and out. The Democratic Congressmen verified that the radar is still under construction and is not yet operational. But this has been known for years and that hasn't slowed the rush toward war emanating from the White House. Military *glasnost* will not appease the warmongering U.S. imperialists—they must be thrown out of power. ■

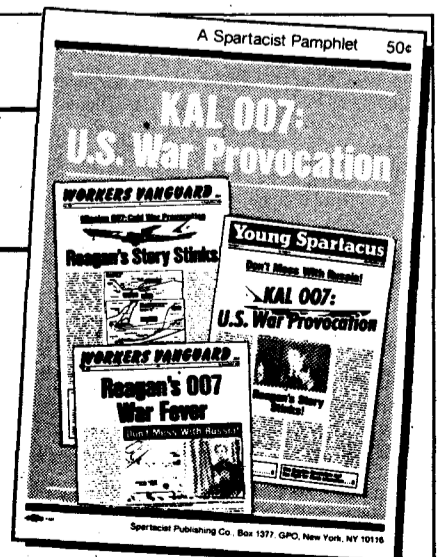
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Racism, Immigration and AIDS

No to "Disease Exclusion"!

After years of neglect of the international AIDS epidemic in the vindictive fundamentalist hope that it was a "gay disease," the Reagan administration now wants "action." But rather than mobilizing the social resources necessary to find a cure or treatment, what the Reagan government suggests for a "solution" (in addition to chastity, of course) is a hysterical proposal for "routine" (the new word for mandatory) testing of just about everybody. The threat to gang-test the population will result only in turning up the hysteria another notch while driving underground those who suspect they might have AIDS, correctly fearing the dire consequences of a positive test: firing, eviction, loss of health insurance, social ostracism. And it's probably going to get worse.

Neither the preacher's sermons nor the spectre of mass testing will stop AIDS: it is a virus. And neither will barbed wire stop it. Over the last few months Washington has implemented a chauvinist proposal to exclude from the country immigrants testing positive for HIV antibodies. People already living in the U.S., applying for citizenship or residency, will be denied legal status if found HIV positive; effective December 1, those applying for admission to the country will be denied, if they test positive (but, illogically, the policy does not apply to tourists, students or others temporarily in the U.S.). The Spartacist League strongly protests this vicious xenophobia and continued exploitation of this horrible disease in the service of right-wing reaction. We have filed a formal letter to the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) demanding the abolition of the entire disease exclusion measure as cruel, inhumane and unnecessary:

"This regulation reflects a governmental policy of witchhunting and malicious neglect. Instead of searching for a cure or control of AIDS by the adequate expenditure of money on thoughtful research, the government continues to cut funds for social services in favor of military expenditures. It is possible that the AIDS virus will elude modern medical technology in its current state. The enormity of the challenge makes it all the more imperative that adequate resources be allocated for internationally coordinated research projects on AIDS.

"There is no rational, medical basis for the exclusion from society of people who either test positive for HIV virus or have AIDS.... We oppose mandatory HIV testing for everyone, including U.S. citizens. In general, mass testing for diseases could be valuable both to the individual and society as a whole, but only if the purpose were curative or epidemiological rather than punitive.... We support instead a program of voluntary, anonymous testing for those who want it, as recommended by

health experts concerned to find a cure...."

There are good medical reasons to want to monitor the spread of infectious diseases. But given the chilling reprisals inflicted on people with AIDS under the prevailing social climate, mandatory testing does not constitute tracking the disease, but tracking the victims so as to punish them for having AIDS. And exclusion of immigrants is a dangerous precedent which will be exploited by

(*San Jose Mercury News*, 7 May)? But viruses don't stop at borders and don't bow to immigration officials. As Dr. Jonathan Mann of the World Health Organization said, "We can't control it anywhere unless we control it everywhere."

Disease Exclusion: American Race-Hate

Historically fear of disease has been used as a cover for prejudice and dis-

prostitutes, illiterates and virtually all immigrants from Asia—a grab bag of accumulated prejudices. The lie that syphilis and gonorrhoea could be spread via drinking fountains was used by officials in the early 20th century to justify the exclusion of unwanted races and ethnic groups, who were blamed for passing these diseases on to the "clean" upper classes.

Attempts to blame immigrant workers for the disease-breeding slums where their starvation wages forced them to live are a recurring theme of racist capitalist self-justification. President Theodore Roosevelt argued in 1901 for restrictions to "stop the influx of cheap labor, and the resulting competition which gives rise to so much of the bitterness in American industrial life, and it would dry up the springs of the pestilential social conditions in our great cities, where anarchist organizations have their greatest possibility of growth." Congress responded by excluding anarchists in 1903 and "imbeciles, feeble-minded [persons] and persons with physical or mental defects which might affect their ability to earn a living" in 1907.

In the early 1920s, such racist tracts as Madison Grant's fake-scientific *The Passing of the Great Race* were widely used to justify cutting off immigration, which allegedly "contained a large and increasing number of the weak, the broken, and the mentally crippled of all races drawn from the lowest stratum of the Mediterranean basin and the Balkans, together with hordes of the wretched, submerged population of the Polish Ghettos." In April 1924, Congress passed the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act by a vast majority. Many witnesses before the hearings argued that "biology" demanded the exclusion of most Eastern and Southern European "races." President Calvin Coolidge, who as vice president had publicly declared that "Biological laws show... that Nordics deteriorate when mixed with other races," quickly signed the act into law. The other major U.S. immigration bill, the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, was also passed during a period of virulent reaction—the McCarthyite Cold War period of violent anti-racist scares, xenophobia and resurgent racism.

In our statement to the Public Health Service, the Spartacist League opposed these provisions in general as "necessarily arbitrary, selective and punitive":

"This is most overt in the case of 'sexual deviation,' under which homosexuals can be excluded. Homosexuality is neither a 'disease' nor a 'medical condition,' but simply one expression of human sexuality, which exists on a broad continuum."

The U.S. ruling class has had a contradictory attitude toward the control and eradication of disease in the population. When a disease has threatened its basic interests, the capitalist class has moved rapidly to end it, within the existing limits of medical knowledge. For example, Army Medical Corps major Walter Reed's campaign to wipe out yellow fever followed the U.S. takeover of Cuba in the Spanish-American War of 1898, when this dreaded disease threatened U.S. imperialist aims in Central America.

However, the ruling classes' efforts to combat sexually transmitted diseases are tentative, at best. In the first decade of the 20th century, the great biologist Paul Ehrlich discovered Salvarsan, the first effective treatment for syphilis.

continued on page 14

Thousands of poor immigrants were refused entry to U.S. by Ellis Island medical examiners. Down with disease exclusion acts!



those bigots pushing to quarantine everybody suffering from AIDS.

The useless viciousness of the U.S. exclusion policy is only emphasized by the fact that it will do absolutely nothing to halt or contain the epidemic within the U.S. Indeed, AIDS is known in many countries as "the American disease," since the majority of cases recorded with the World Health Organization are here. Other countries are also excluding AIDS victims, many of them Americans. Japan has banned HIV-infected foreigners and has already deported a Filipina woman. Britain refuses admission to anyone with the disease; an American airline cabin steward was detained at Gatwick Airport and returned to the U.S. The British colony of Hong Kong refused to allow an American with AIDS to so much as pass through, while Canada refuses admission to those with active AIDS. The USSR is testing all foreigners seeking to stay for longer than three months, and has already deported about 40 people. So what's the solution—a nation of AIDS sufferers in Antarctica? Or, as one rabid bigot said of leprosy patients in California, "... take 'em to the moon"

crimination of all kinds. As we commented in our protest of the disease exclusion regulations:

"The history of exclusion of immigrants in this country is one of discrimination and xenophobia, in which 'medical' exclusions have been inextricably intertwined. The vicious stereotype of the 'disease-ridden foreigner' has been used by this nation's rulers to exclude immigrants ever since massive immigration restrictions began."

To the extent that quarantining and exclusion for diseases became regularized prior to World War I, it was overtly class-biased. The notorious Ellis Island holding pens were reserved for those who made the sea voyage in steerage, while first-class passengers were admitted after a few brief questions. The tragedies of separated families were enormous, as 5 percent were rejected, with some committing suicide rather than face the uncertain voyage back to lonely, desperate poverty.

Sweeping Asian exclusion laws victimized the Chinese, who were forbidden to immigrate, own land or intermarry. Savage prejudice against these workers, a reservoir of pathetically cheap labor, was most evident in California. After the completion of the Union Pacific railroad (built largely with Chinese labor) in 1869, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 (at the behest of the racist trade-union tops), which among other things prevented the wives of Chinese men in the U.S. from joining their husbands. The intersection of this racism with fear of disease was evident in San Francisco in the early 1900s, when an outbreak of plague led to proposals to raze Chinatown and forcibly detain the inhabitants.

Racist nativist agitation against immigrants reached a peak in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prior to World War I the government began codifying the exclusion of whole categories of people, including polygamists, anarchists and other radicals, convicts, "lunatics," people with tuberculosis,



Medieval Europe saw ravages of bubonic plague as god's scourge; today's witchhunters blame AIDS victims for disease.

AIDS Witchhunt...

(continued from page 16)

mandatory fink list of sexual contacts going back as far as seven to ten years, liberals are now praising the governor's "moderate" role. In fact, this legislation, effective immediately, could result in wiping out anonymous HIV testing in Illinois by requiring that every testee give written permission (i.e., sign their names), in effect volunteering for an AIDS blacklist.

In Chicago, right-wing thugs have already carried the anti-gay offensive into the streets. A recent survey (Chicago *Sun-Times*, 20 June) showed that one out of every five homosexual men in Chicago had been physically attacked because he was gay. Last spring fascist punks at the elite University of Chicago waged a campaign of intimidation aimed primarily at gays. When a gay newspaper published an exposé of this homophobic and racist group, two thugs walked into the editorial office and brutally attacked the publisher with a baseball bat.

Racism and AIDS

In every possible way AIDS hysteria intersects sexual prejudices and racial and ethnic hatred in this deeply bigoted country. AIDS was first identified in the U.S. in 1981 among gay men, who are still a majority of the victims. But in the past period, it has begun to spread much more rapidly among users of intravenous drugs, disproportionately black and Hispanic, through sharing contaminated needles.

While blacks and Hispanics make up 17 percent of the American population, they account for 38 percent of AIDS victims. Seventy-three percent of women with AIDS are black or Hispanic. In New York City, over 90 percent of children with AIDS are black or Hispanic. Two years ago thousands of residents of Queens kept their children out of school because one lone child with HIV was attending school somewhere in New York City. Last spring in Queens a foster home for these children was firebombed. Queens—where a vicious white mob attacked three black men in Howard Beach and killed Michael Griffith. The explosive race tensions in New York feed on AIDS hysteria, which has become yet another right-wing rallying cry for segregation and oppression.

The AIDS death rates are a shocking reminder of the condition of black people in America: on average, two years after a white is diagnosed with AIDS, he is dead. For blacks, it's 19 weeks. Racism and poverty are big factors in the spread of disease. That's why 62 percent of Americans with tuberculosis (which is soaring in the U.S. today) are

Anti-sex fanatics target AIDS victims.



black: bad living and working conditions and wretched medical care mean poor health—including diseases which, unlike AIDS, can be cured.

Last August the Centers for Disease Control sponsored a special conference on AIDS and minorities. But participants who anticipated a scientific discussion found instead a diatribe of moralism of the "just say no" variety, like Nancy Reagan turning down a piece of chocolate cake. In his keynote address CDC deputy director Donald Hopkins denounced promiscuity, teenage pregnancy and "loose" sex, which he equated with drug use. "Strategies" for AIDS education boil down to exhorting the impoverished ghetto masses against sex and drugs. "Just say no"—the perennial exhortation to youth—has never worked before in the history of our species, and it won't work now.

Everyone knows that AIDS is spread among the poor by intravenous drug users sharing contaminated needles. The distribution of free sterile needles

would be an elementary public health measure, but this approach to checking the spread of AIDS and saving lives runs smack up against Reagan's moralistic anti-drug crusade.

At a public forum last November, a Spartacist spokesman described the intersection between racism and general social reaction, and the cohabitation of the black Democrats with Reagan and the racist cops in the anti-drug witchhunt:

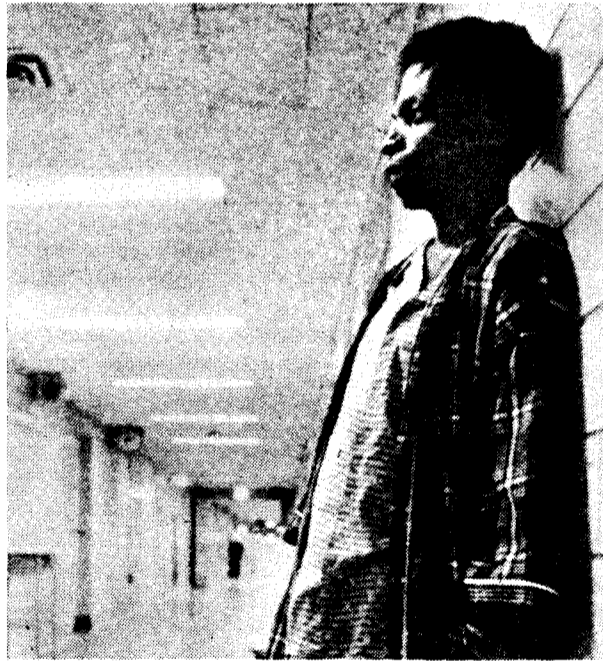
"The cops either hold the pushers up for their cut and then the pushers charge that much more; or they just take the entire thing and sell it themselves. So what you get between the pushers and the cops is combat for profit. And that's the vice squad.

"So this war on drugs is simply a tool to build the police department, to eliminate democratic rights so the police can go anywhere to terrorize black kids. And not only that. The conditions of capitalism in the ghettos are so severe with generational unemployment, with no possibility of getting out for these kids, no possibility of jobs, so why not take drugs? A black mother in the

ghetto knows that there's a struggle every day, second by second, to save her child from that damned pusher. So what you get is the black hustlers like Jesse Jackson that come up and say to this black woman, 'Yeah, you've got to support your cops, that's the answer.' ... the Uncle Toms... say what you've got to do is, don't ask for anything from the white man, improve yourself in the eyes of the white man, and if you're good and good long enough, then you'll get something. And basically what it does, it accepts the terms of the racism of the oppressor. Jesse Jackson's recent statement is that drugs kill more than Klan ropes—does he want a united front with the KKK against drugs?"

—"Sex, Race and Class in the 'American Century,'" *Women and Revolution* No. 33, Spring 1987

The hypocrisy of the anti-drug crusade and its class-biased double standards is as striking on the drug question as on the issue of sexuality—it's illegal when the poor do it. Wall Street brokers use cocaine on a daily basis while columnists (a "profession" not known for the sobriety of its members) urge the hunting down of suspected "drug abusers"... so long as they are impoverished ghetto kids or even black sports stars. Meanwhile the ruling class is up to its neck in drug-running, from the days of British imperialism's subjugation of China to the CIA in Indochina and the present "Contragate" scandal. In the same way, the English Victorians found sex very dirty and distasteful when practiced by the poor, and in "modern" times the distinction between "erotica" and "smut" has always resided in the quality and price of the printing job. (The self-styled "feminists" of some years back who took up the "anti-porn" campaign of the anti-sex book-burners put themselves on the wrong side in a deeply racist and anti-woman crusade to reimpose the "morality" of the religious right, a crusade waged in part by the



Harlem Hospital: AIDS patient, one of thousands abandoned to deteriorating health care. Right, AFSCME workers protest cutbacks at Harlem's last remaining hospital in June.



"Disease Exclusion"...

(continued from page 13)

Instead of hailing this important breakthrough, many health officials wailed that it would encourage "licentiousness." This is the same view expressed by Pope Leo XII in 1826 when he banned the use of the condom because "it defied the intentions of divine Providence... to punish sinners by striking them in the member with which they had sinned" (Henry E. Sigerist, *Civilization and Disease*). Fear of sexually transmitted disease has been manipulated for sexual guilt: if you get sick as a result of a sexual act, you're supposed to suffer.

Syphilis was an identified disease for a good century before a cure, penicillin, was discovered. We don't know how long it will take to find a cure for AIDS.

To this day, although both syphilis and gonorrhea are generally easily cured, they remain widespread in the United States. In 1979 gonorrhea accounted for two-thirds of all reported communicable disease in the U.S.; it is the most prevalent serious human bacterial infection on the planet. Yet the U.S. government has systematically slashed funding for education and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. AIDS is a replay of the same sorry moralistic drivel, compounded by ferocious sexual and racial hatred.

Free, Quality Health Care for All!

As a species, we stand directly in the shadow of the Black Death which killed approximately one-third of the world's population in the 14th century. At the time, Francesco Petrarca wrote, "Oh happy posterity who will not experience such abysmal woe—and who will

look upon our testimony as fable." But our species has not won its independence from nature! With the advent of agriculture, followed by concentration in cities, human beings became an extremely prone target for disease of the like not known to hunting-gathering societies. In 1918-19, six centuries after Petrarca's prayer, a virulent influenza killed more people than died in World War I. As we said in our letter to the Public Health Service:

"Disease is a universal problem of our species which cannot be solved by national exclusion and border patrols. We do not have ready-made answers to this problem and we don't pretend to expertise where medical technology has so far failed. But as Marxists we seek to approach general social questions in a scientific and rational manner. And we fight for a society in which resources can be mobilized on the basis of social needs."

Care for the aged and ill is supposed

to be a hallmark of humanity; indeed, anthropologists cite evidence that Neandertals cared for their aged and crippled as indicating the intelligence and humanity of these people. Although medical technology is far from having all the answers, it has made it possible for our species to control many diseases which have been hideous scourges in past centuries, smallpox not the least. Quality health care for all is objectively within the reach of material possibility, but not within the framework of this capitalist system, which cannot provide the necessities of life to its citizens even though the productive capacities and technology exist to feed the hungry across the whole planet. Even on the level of ideas, the need of the system's apologists to justify the exploitation and brutal oppression of the masses leaves increasingly little room for a rational approach to anything, including science and medicine. ■



Spartacists at 1986 Gay Pride Day march in New York City.

naked terrorism of abortion clinic bombers.)

Reagan Reaction and the Democrats

The Democratic Party—partner with the Reaganites in America's *one-party* system, the class dictatorship of the property party—has no program except to *compete with Reagan* for right-wing voters. The Democrats do have certain tactical differences with Reagan, for example over whether revolution in Central America can possibly be stopped by funding the loser contras. Their differences concern not what Reagan wants to do to America and the world, but whether the U.S. population is "ready" to go along. Indeed the Democratic Party of Hiroshima and Vietnam is historically the *war party* within the "Republicrat" division of labor, since the façade of democracy and hypocritical promises to combat injustice can more effectively compel the masses to sacrifice for the so-called "national interest."

As far as their present social program is concerned, the Democrats are definitely not motivated to make any concessions toward the specially oppressed. The gloating hatefulness of the Reagan regime means to the Democrats that they can take the black vote for granted. After the success of Jesse Jackson in turning out blacks for Mondale in 1984 (no other section of society went for Mondale in its majority, while about 90 percent of black voters did), black pressure will have *less* effect on the Democrats' platform than before, as the Democrats openly court racist support. The reformist "left" organizations who do not cease to tail the Democrats and tout the "Rainbow Coalition" share responsibility for the lack of a revolutionary alternative to Reagan reaction, to the extent that their small and demoralized forces have any influence.

The Democrats, knowing full well that Reagan is their best recruiter, duck

every issue of real concern to the people, presenting instead a set of media-glossy "personalities" (who moreover display a certain tendency for self-destruction). Their best hope is that the cast of characters in Reagan's camp will make them look good. There's the Civil Rights Commission that hates civil rights, the occupational safety agency that doesn't believe in safety, and just look at Reagan's AIDS commission. It includes one Penny Pullen, who has claimed that homosexuals deliberately donate infected blood to pollute the bloodbanks. Among other members are Theresa L. Crenshaw, a supporter of the fascistic LaRouche initiative in California for quarantine (concentration camps) for AIDS victims, and Amway Corp. president Richard M. DeVos, the largest individual contributor to Reagan's 1980 campaign, who says that gay men "just can't control themselves" (*Washington Post*, 26 August). New York Cardinal O'Connor, the U.S. Catholic church's most prominent crusader against gay rights, was appointed "to bring a religious values perspective to the discussion" (*New York Times*, 24 July).

It's not just venality or stupidity that makes the Democrats partners in the all-sided social reaction called "Reaganism." Following the co-optation and betrayal of the mass movement for black freedom which swept this country in the late 1950s and 1960s (and the smashing of its most militant wing by the state), and following the U.S. *military defeat* in Vietnam, the ruling class began a policy of "moral rearmament" and reregimentation of the population. Beginning under the Democrat Carter, civil rights gains were "rolled back" and the courts acquiesced to the dismantling of school busing, which was carried out by enraged racist mobs in the streets. A bipartisan program was adopted of official racism and hatred of the cities—the killer budget cuts, the closing of hospitals to finance the military build-

up, the Klan's broad-daylight massacre of an integrated rally of unionists and leftists in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979 (a crime in which the government, as usual, participated heavily).

The accelerated pace of repression under Reagan has depended heavily on the Democrats' eager participation, cheered on by the fat-cat labor tops who won't lift a finger on behalf of blacks, women, gays and all the oppressed. When Reagan went after the well-paid air traffic controllers (PATCO) union and literally put their leaders in chains as a message to all of labor, the union bureaucrats were concerned above all to preserve their ties to lying "friend of labor" politicians, and the first condition of those "alliances" is to accept the bosses' anti-union laws, the "rules of the game" which guarantee that labor will lose.

To keep the desperate black masses intimidated, the Democrats have been crucial as their mayors administer the big cities, bristling with social contradiction and racial polarization and fear, on behalf of the White House. In Philadelphia, for example, many black working people thought they had a stake in the victory of black mayor Wilson Goode over the old racist machine of long-time boss Frank Rizzo. But it was in Philly two years ago that the cops culminated their years-long vendetta

great stress on the question of "unity" and support from other "constituencies" outside the gay community. Of course, no sane person would underestimate the need for vulnerable, and specially targeted social layers like homosexuals to find allies among the rest of the oppressed. But real unity can never be secured by tying the working people to our *class enemies*. Such "alliances" only guarantee that those who are compelled to come forward and fight—picket-line militants in bitter local strikes, black youth who have good reasons for their moods of rebellion, people with AIDS confronting virulent bigotry and the prospect of death—are left isolated and betrayed. Only a *revolutionary program* to fight capitalism can beat the rulers' divide-and-conquer schemes and achieve a fighting unity of the targets of Reagan reaction.

The main document adopted at the Spartacist League's recent Eighth National Conference states:

"...the all-sided reactionary nature of Reagan's attacks fuels the realization, among all those who know they have a sworn enemy in the White House, that democratic struggles are indivisible. In sneering at hunger and homelessness, in taking aim gloatingly at those most helpless like ghetto children, AIDS victims, non-citizens, old-age pensioners and so forth, Reaganism as an ideology highlights the objective need for a fighting proletarian vanguard as a *tribune of*

Blacks, Gays, Jews, Minorities - Nazis Want to Destroy Us & Our STOP THEM! 7 Committee Against the Nazis



Spartacist-initiated united front spiked Nazi provocation against Gay Pride Day, Chicago, 1982. For labor/black action to smash fascist terror!

against the MOVE commune, whose only "crime" was to be "uppity" in Reagan's America. On Mother's Day, 1985, Goode's cops and Reagan's FBI worked together to fly a bombing mission over the MOVE house, massacring five children and six adults and burning down a neighborhood of black homes. The proliferation of "Black Elected Officials" (touted as proof of black advancement) was no gain for the black masses, for the black mayors like Marion Barry in Washington are, no less than white racists like New York's mayor Koch, merely overseers on Reagan's plantation.

The black Democrats, like their white counterparts, are overtly the enemies of the real struggles which can forge a fighting alliance of labor and the ghetto: the labor/black mobilizations to stop the Klan/Nazi provocations which have tried to invade the big cities, the strikes of unions with a large black component (like several city workers strikes in Andrew Young's Atlanta or the present confrontation between Chicago teachers and the Harold Washington administration) where union victories could not only put some money into black workers' pockets but also encourage others among the oppressed to fight back against a reactionary regime which is visibly in considerable conjunctural disarray.

Fight for Revolutionary Leadership

The organizers of the upcoming march in Washington on October 11 lay

the people... After years of vicious and even bizarre social reaction spearheaded by Reagan, many people manifestly have an appetite to fight if they only could see a way forward. The probability is that any serious struggle by the unions or oppressed will pull other sectors behind it...

—"Toward Revolutionary Conjunction," 18 June 1987

We got a foretaste of the power of that program when in June 1982 a Spartacist-initiated united-front mobilization in Chicago spiked a genocidal Nazi provocation against "Gay Pride Day." While the city's gay groups despaired of the possibility of mobilizing unionists and minorities in explicit defense of gays (and/or resented us for coming onto their "turf"), our anti-Nazi protest drew 3,000 demonstrators, including members of dozens of unions and a significant minority of black people who came out because they knew that the Nazis who today target the gays have many others in their sights. Then on November 27 of the same year, a larger SL-initiated mobilization in Washington, D.C. composed overwhelmingly of black unionists and black youth prevented the hated KKK from marching against Hispanics and other immigrant workers. But the potential for labor/black power shown by these important actions cannot triumph without the construction in struggle of a revolutionary leadership able to present itself to the masses of working people as the alternative to the two-headed property party of the capitalist system, and the champion of the struggles of all the oppressed. ■

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International Women's Day 1987

WORKERS VANGUARD

Reagan, Democrats Target Gays, Immigrants, Blacks

Down with AIDS Witchhunt!

AIDS has become a lightning rod for the most vicious racism and bigotry in this sick society: from brutal beatings of homosexuals to school boycotts, it's "AIDS" on the lips of every reactionary whipping up hatred and pogromist frenzy. Because of the ways it is spread (in the United States, at least), AIDS strikes disproportionately at gays, blacks and Hispanics (and their children and sex partners), compounding the ingrained superstitions fostered by capitalist society. The bigots' message: only "nice," white American families, with the approved lifestyles straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting, deserve good health and a decent life. And these racist, anti-gay bigots mean *action*: in August a family with three hemophiliac boys, all infected with the AIDS virus through blood transfusions, was burned out of their home in Arcadia, Florida.

From the beginning, the tragic AIDS epidemic has been exploited by peddlers of fear and bigotry. While the AIDS virus, HIV, is *not* spread by casual, day-to-day contact, AIDS victims—including those *suspected* of having AIDS or of being associated with AIDS victims—have been fired from their jobs, evicted from their apartments, denied health and life insurance.

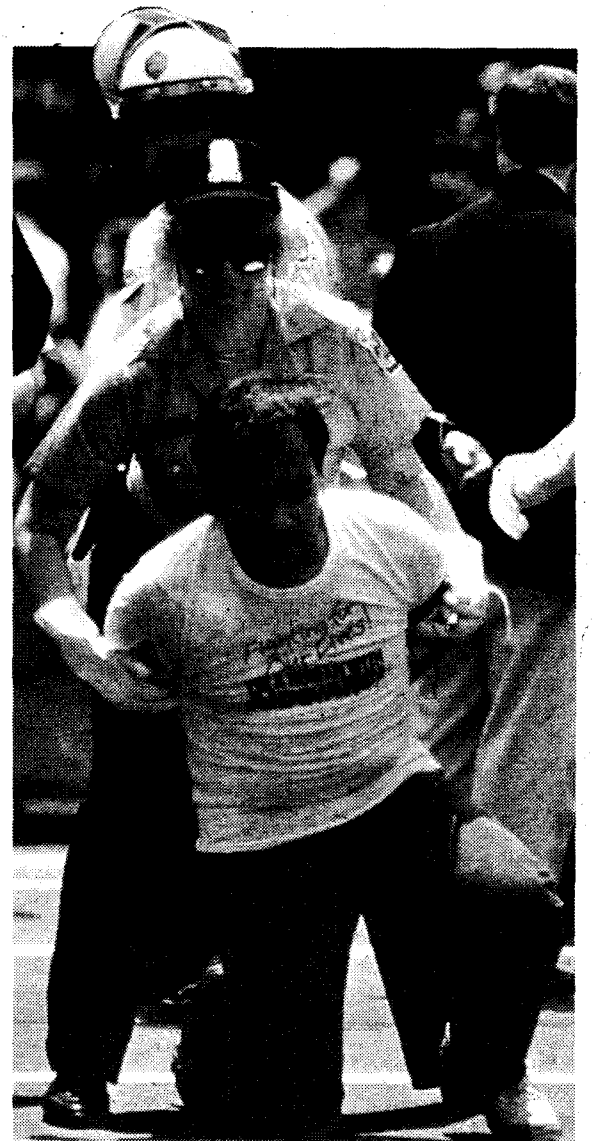
Gay organizations across the country, fed up with the vicious discrimination which is increasingly openly sanctioned by the government (a recent *New York Times* front-page story was headlined: "Rights Bill on AIDS Is to Be Opposed by Administration"), have called what may be the biggest gay protest ever, to be held in Washington, D.C. on October 11. The political coloration of the march is heavily pro-Democratic Party (urban gays are, except for blacks, perhaps the best-organized Democratic Party "constituency"). In effect the march will be one of the opening shots of the "anti-Reagan forces" looking toward the 1988 presidential elections. *But the Democrats' social program is no less reactionary than that of the White House!* On every social question, from teen sex to drugs to AIDS, and especially on the race question, which is the key to social struggle in this country, the Democrats are trying to out-Reagan Reagan to compete for the support of outright racists and fundamentalist reactionaries. As we wrote last year following the Supreme Court's outrageous anti-"sodomy" decision:

"When gay rights protesters raised the chant, 'Civil rights or civil war!' and



Burbank/Fort Myers News Press

Reaganites whip up hysterical violence against AIDS victims: When three hemophiliac children infected with AIDS virus through blood transfusion entered school, bigots burned down their Florida home. Right: Washington, D.C. cops wearing rubber gloves arrest protesters demanding funding for AIDS research.



Colburn/Photoreporters

opponents of the Supreme Court ruling referred to it as the *Dred Scott* decision for gays, they touched on a key connection. Black people are the main victims of Reagan reaction and the struggle for the rights of all vulnerable sections of the population—homosexuals, women, immigrants, youth, the elderly—is integrally bound up with the fight for black liberation."

—"Reagan's Sex Witchhunt,"
WV No. 408, 18 July 1986

Democratic rights are *indivisible*—labor and minorities must fight for the rights of homosexuals!

A Climate of Vicious Hysteria

As of mid-September, there have been over 41,000 cases of AIDS reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control. There remain many unanswered questions about AIDS: although the media spread the assumption that once you're infected, you're sure to get sick, that is by no means proved. What is clear is that the United States is already

experiencing a major health care crisis in all dimensions, and people with AIDS are getting the worst that hospitals have to offer. After years of cutbacks and hospital closings, the dumping of mental patients out of treatment facilities, the deterioration of conditions in hospitals for patients and staff, New York City hospitals can't find enough nurses willing to work there—even from traditional "Third World" sources of cheap labor, like the Philippines or Latin America.

For AIDS patients, this scene is compounded by denial of their civil rights in a climate of hysteria. Medical personnel who refuse to treat victims of AIDS (or leprosy or any other disease—hospitals used to refuse beds to syphilitics) are like the military officer who says, "I resign in case of war." They are practitioners of religious superstition, not medical science.

People with AIDS are quickly impoverished by a disease costing thousands to treat, while public funding for care is pitiful. Meanwhile, Burroughs Wellcome rakes in millions for AZT, the only current drug which, while not a cure, appears to act against HIV itself, although it has serious side effects. And the insurance vultures shriek that their profits will go down unless they strike AIDS victims from their lists. It's already happening systematically in Britain, where AIDS-positive people can no longer get life insurance, and even just taking the test can lead to denial of coverage.

A friend of our party recently sent us a moving account of the impact of AIDS on people's lives. Even those not made destitute and homeless face desperate choices among untested therapies; they endure Kafkaesque bureaucracy and "the rapacious greed of the drug companies and the anarchy of a health care for profit system." In the gay milieu in New York and California, substantial self-help organizations and networks of volunteers are trying to provide basic information and some help to AIDS victims within and outside the gay "community," in the face of society's callous abandonment.

The comrade's letter also observes:

"The AIDS epidemic intersects two deep wells of backwardness and irrationality. On the one hand, it touches on ancient fears of the plague or the leper syndrome. On the other hand, these fears become intertwined with the visceral rejection of sexual pleasure, particularly in its 'aberrant' forms.... The campaigns to remove gay teachers speak to phobias that combine rejection of the sexuality of youth with the horrors of pederasty, phobias that are heightened to fever pitch by the AIDS epidemic."

In Illinois, a dozen reactionary AIDS bills passed the state legislature this summer. These laws prescribe mandatory testing of all "sex and drug crime offenders" and marriage license applicants. On September 20, Governor James Thompson approved the reactionary core of the legislation. Relieved that he did veto the section calling for a

continued on page 14

Racism, Immigration and AIDS

No to "Disease Exclusion"!

SEE PAGE THIRTEEN