

March 27 El Salvador Protest



A wall of police separates Anti-imperialist Contingent from other demonstrators in Malcolm X Park.

WV Photo

At Bidding of Rad-Lib Democrats

Cops Seal Off Left

They brought in the cossacks, the motorcycle cops and SWAT teams to keep out the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. The police blocked us from entering Malcolm X Park, then sealed us off once we got in, turning the assembly point and later our rally effectively into temporary detention centers. March 27 was an all-day political struggle in the streets of Washington between the "reds" who call for leftist insurgents to win the war in El Salvador and rad-lib "doves" who want to call the war off (particularly now that the rebels are winning). From early morning on a faction centered on Sam Marcy's YAWF of the reformist-liberal March 27 Coalition sought to provoke the cops, the armed fist of the capitalist state, to exclude the Spartacist League. But the superb display of police power suggests that far more powerful forces than the measly reformists had put a fix in against the revolutionaries.

Yet all the attempts to quarantine us with goons and cops and anti-Communist slander did not win the fight for the organizers of this pro-Democratic Party march. The SL-organized Anti-Imperialist Contingent was the focus of the entire day. Most of the crowd listened to our agitational speeches broadcast into the park while we were outside the assembly site, many thousands received our leaflets and more than 1,400 pieces of SL literature were sold in Washington on March 27.

And despite the concentration of police power against us, when the most frenzied anti-Spartacists of the Coalition tried to cordon off the Anti-

Imperialist Contingent by a chain of "marshals" with linked arms, we quickly took down that line. You couldn't miss it: the Spartacists were the ones fighting



AP's March 27 photo: Unfortunately, the political line of the "official" march bore no relationship to this picture of the Anti-Imperialist Contingent.

for leftist military victory in El Salvador; the reformists were the ones who called and hid behind the cops.

And it will be remembered, for every day it becomes more urgent and obviously necessary to defeat Reagan's blood-soaked colonels. Yet now that the Salvadoran rebels have the junta on the run, now that the vast majority of the American population opposes intervention...now we hear more and more about a treacherous "political solution." Because the liberal imperialists are worried about the U.S. taking another defeat like Vietnam. So the official march organizers want the leftist insurgents in El Salvador to lay down their arms (negotiations/cease-fire). What that would mean is seen in the fact that a top candidate in the recent electoral farce was described by the former U.S. ambassador as a "pathological killer" and is known locally as the "napalm candidate" who calls for a "peace of 200,000 dead." A "negotiated settlement" is a program for mass suicide.

Perhaps 35,000 protesters marched in Washington against Reagan's policies in El Salvador. But there were two counterposed class programs raised on March 27. The popular-frontists' "stop the war" parade looked to the Democratic Party; the Trotskyists' "win the war" rally looked to the Salvadoran masses and the American working class.

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Chrysler, Ford, Now GM...

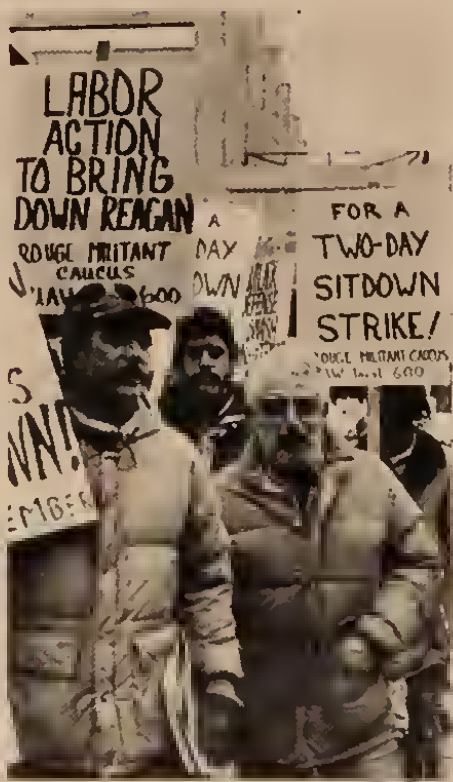
Fraser's \$5 Billion Giveaway Cripples UAW

Company man Doug Fraser is now finishing off the job he has done for the bosses on nearly a million American and Canadian auto workers. Since 1979 the United Auto Workers (UAW) chief has negotiated away a whopping \$5 billion in givebacks, money taken from workers' pockets to put into the coffers of the Big Three auto manufacturers. The Fraser gang has also accepted without a peep of protest the permanent layoff of over 250,000 UAW production workers (600,000 if auto suppliers are included). It's not only Chrysler, Ford and GM bosses who are profiting from this gigantic giveaway. The sellout artists at Solidarity House are leading up the capitalists' wage-slashing offensive nationally. And the General Motors contract, which they have been trying for months to shove down auto workers' throats, is supposed to be the crowning blow.

In January GM workers frustrated Fraser's concession plans by making it clear they'd throw any giveback deal back in his face. So GM management decided to help Fraser soften up his members by announcing the permanent or indefinite closing of eight auto plants employing 10,000 workers. Claiming that a new giveback contract will "save" jobs and pointing to the \$1 billion giveaway negotiated with Ford last month, the UAW chief is now seeking to blackmail all opposition among GM workers. But the line that givebacks will buy back jobs is a lie.

General Motors workers: Vote down this scandalous \$3 billion giveaway contract! Stop the rout of the American labor movement here! Auto workers have to revive the methods of militant struggle which built the union in the 1930s: sitdown strikes to throw back the concessions drive and to fight for the elementary rights of labor.

"Those figures sound good," GM's veep for industrial relations chortled over the proposed contract. No wonder.



Detroit, February 20: Auto workers protest Fraser's givebacks.

The sellout deal freezes wages for at least two years, defers cost-of-living adjustments for at least a year and a half and gives up the equivalent of two weeks of paid time off a year. In return auto workers will get... *nothing*. The "guaranteed income stream" is a guaranteed hoax: Does anyone really believe GM would make lifetime payments to a worker it can't even afford to exploit on its assembly lines? "Profit sharing" will mean self-imposed speedup for a paltry few pennies an hour, and even that only assuming GM makes substantial profits. After the Chrysler and Ford givebacks if Fraser succeeds in pushing this GM deal through, he will cripple the once-powerful Auto Workers, in the past a pacesetter for industrial unionism.

Fraser & Co. are touting this colossal betrayal as a "job saver," pointing to a few small plants that GM had threatened to close but promises to keep open—for now. But what about the 140,000 laid-off GM workers who Fraser himself says will probably never see the inside of an auto plant again? Recently the Cleveland Fisher Body plant, where the historic 1936-37 sitdown strikes first began, was closed with hardly a murmur of protest from Solidarity House. Plants like South Gate and Fremont in California will remain shut under this contract, and more will follow.

For Labor Action to Bring Down Reagan!

The attempt to gut the auto union through mass layoffs and givebacks is an important part of the current war on American working people directed from the White House. It cannot be separated from the mounting capitalist depression, which is enormously worsened by the anti-Soviet military buildup. American workers *can* be mobilized to fight this Reagan-led capitalist offensive, as shown by the half million angry workers who marched on Washington September 19. Yet the AFL-CIO bureaucrats organized "Solidarity Day" not for class struggle but to resurrect the bankrupt Democratic Party/labor alliance which paved the road for Reagan reaction. Through this bloc the union leaders politically tie the working people to the aims and goals of U.S. imperialism. Fraser, a "progressive," may feign concern over "human rights" in El Salvador, but he supports the bipartisan war drive directed at the Soviet degenerated workers state. And the UAW tops have become the most rabid advocates of chauvinist trade protectionism, to the point of banning Toyotas and Datsuns from the Solidarity House parking lot!

At home these fakers claim to oppose

Reagan's war on labor, blacks, the poor and the aged, calling for guns *and* butter. Nevertheless, Fraser has done more to *implement* Reagan's program than any other individual outside the president's cabinet. Reagan smashed the air controllers union, but the UAW leadership is doing the job on auto workers *for* him. The \$5 billion he is taking from auto workers to hand over to the companies is more than Reagan's proposed 1983 budget cuts for food stamps, welfare, student loans and child nutrition combined. The social devastation created by Reagan's budget cuts and the layoffs/givebacks in auto and other industries is turning industrial cities like Detroit into giant scrapheaps.

Meanwhile, the dissident bureaucrat-led Locals Opposed to Concessions (LOC), which put out leaflets and demonstrated against the GM givebacks last January, has capitulated miserably. This is no surprise: Strikes are what these fakers are most opposed to, not concessions. LOC leader Ron Murray voted to reopen GM giveback talks after the Ford sellout and is now sounding just like Fraser. "I think the day and age of the adversarial relationship between the union and the company is gone," he told the *New York Times* (26 March). If former "militants" like Murray are singing this defeatist tune, at bottom it is because they think there is no alternative. And the labor reformists can provide no answer because they are wedded to the profit system.

A successful struggle against the auto givebacks means militant labor action to bring down Reagan, to wrest the billions from the Dr. Strangeloves of the Pentagon, a head-on struggle against capitalism. The UAW with its large black membership can play a key role in mobilizing the working class and ghetto poor in this fight. That is the revolutionary program of the Spartacist League. We say: It is desperately necessary to fight! ■

For a New York Transit Strike!

No Contract, No Work!

NEW YORK CITY—The big guns of the capitalist takeback drive are now aimed at 35,000 city transit workers, whose contract expires at midnight March 31. Inspired by the way Reagan smashed the air traffic controllers' union (PATCO), Mayor Koch, Albany and the Transit Authority (TA) are geared up to throw the largely minority transit workforce back to the pre-union era. The TA's union-busting contract demands include the unrestricted hiring of part-timers without benefit coverage or seniority; a 25 percent cut in TA-paid health benefits; removal of all restrictions on scheduling and overtime allocation; slashing of weekend and night differential; no sick pay for the first two days of illness; six years' substandard pay for new hires, ad nauseam. This "offer" in particular targets black and Latin workers: pay scales would be lowered and night

differential eliminated in some jobs in which minorities are concentrated.

In the face of this threat, Local 100 chief John Lawe has abandoned the union's longstanding "no contract, no work" principle in favor of binding arbitration. Lawe's retreat was voted up by Arnold Cherry at the last bargaining convention and endorsed by the rest of the "dissidents." This no-fight strait-jacket will only clear the way for the TA's massive takeaways. The so-called "impartial" arbitrators are part of the same city administration that is out for blood. It is clear that at a *minimum* a strike is necessary to defend past gains, let alone win what is needed.

When union leaders run up the white flag, the members lose. It is better to fight! Across the country one powerful union after another has surrendered hard-won gains for *nothing* in return,

and Reagan and the bosses keep coming back for more. The TWU isn't a white-collar fringe on the labor movement like PATCO. It has the power to take a stand against this full-scale retreat. By tying up the city and holding Wall Street hostage, the TWU could rally the other city workers' unions (whose contracts expire this spring), all the poor and the oppressed minorities in a powerful counterattack against the Reagan/Koch racist cutbacks and givebacks.

Local 100 has come increasingly under attack as its minority membership has grown. The union's links to the ghetto poor, its control of the city's lifeblood—mass transit—and its militant history make the TWU a prime target of the bosses. The defeats suffered by transit workers have accompanied a vicious austerity program that has made life in New York miserable for wide sections of the populace. The financial capital of the "free world" has over 50 percent black teenage unemployment. Its working people ride in subways that have accidents once every five days on average. Ghetto hospitals have been boarded up, highways collapse, subway tunnels fall in. The union struggle for better wages and conditions must be broadened into a labor/minority offensive against the capitalist austerity

program.

Koch, the TA brass and their no-strike Taylor Law *can* be beaten! During the 1980 TWU strike we said, "Transit Workers: they may have you by the throat, but you've got them by the balls!" The union would have won if it had kept on squeezing. But Lawe, with no resistance from Arnold Cherry and the "dissident" exec board majority, ended the strike in defeat under massive Taylor Law penalties that left a deep residue of mistrust in the leaders' ability to win a strike. But America can't run without the New York subways.

Today many transit workers, angered by the TA's arrogant giveback demands, recognize that binding arbitration is a trap. But the question is, who can lead this powerful union into combat? Not Lawe & Co. Elected strike committees are necessary to organize mass picketing, coordinate action with other unions and issue strike demands, including the reversal of all 1980 Taylor Law penalties. It is urgently necessary to forge a fighting leadership that's willing to wield the TWU's power and won't sell out to please the Democratic Party. Under such a class-struggle leadership a TWU strike could ignite a working-class offensive to bust Democrat Koch and bring down Republican Reagan! ■

WORKERS VANGUARD

"No Negotiations! Workers Take San Salvador!"

Speeches at D.C. Anti-Imperialist Contingent Rally

Tom Janota

Last Peace Corps teacher to leave El Salvador.

Friends and comrades, we're here this afternoon not only to protest U.S. military aid, not only to protest U.S. economic aid to the bloody junta in El Salvador, but also to call for a left-wing military victory that can once and for all bring down that bloody dictatorship that has been ruling the country for some fifty years.

Now I lived in El Salvador. I've seen it up close. I've walked in the streets of San Bartolo, the so-called "free trade zone." "Free trade zone," you know what that means: no taxes, no strikes, wages ranging from something like three to four dollars a day. I've walked in the rutted streets of San Bartolo next to open ditches where one child out of every two dies before their fifth birthday. I've walked in the mountains of Ahuachapán, Santa Ana, in the coffee mountains where the oligarchs, the coffee barons, pick their coffee every November through February, paying

that armed fist of the junta is made to crush any kind of organized labor, whether it be in the countryside or in the city. In El Salvador there will be no change if the military remains in power.

I was in El Salvador on October 15, 1979, for the so-called "human rights" junta engineered in Washington bringing Colonels Majano and Gutiérrez to power. Of course, escorting General Romero and his cronies off to the airport to join their bank accounts in Miami. The only blood shed in that "human rights" coup of October was workers' blood. Workers' blood in San Bartolo, in the free trade zones, as the army came up with their tanks and guns and broke strikes, killing workers, killing students, killing anybody who would stand in their way.

I was there then on October 18 when Guillermo Ungo, the current leader of the FDR, came to power, thereby approving those bloody attacks on the workers of the free trade zone, on the workers of Soyopango. Guillermo Ungo is no more a friend of the working man in El Salvador than is Napoleón Duarte, than is the military government that still rules there.

I was in El Salvador on January 22, 1980, when some 200,000 people or more were in the streets demonstrating behind the "left program." Two hundred thousand leftists in the streets,



Tom Janota, Don Andrews (from left).

the workers again something like four to five dollars a day, or less. Maybe it just comes down to some tortillas and some beans. And they make big profits in El Salvador from coffee. It's made some people very, very rich.

I've seen the hired guns in El Salvador, the official ones dressed in uniforms (and fortunately I didn't see the unofficial ones that dress in civilian clothes, that knock at night, pull people out of their homes, shoot them in the streets, mutilate their bodies). Of course, that armed fist of the oligarchy,

peacefully marching to try to move the junta in their direction. What was the answer of the so-called "human rights" military-civilian junta? Another in a long string of massacres. Some hundred people killed and hundreds wounded as they tried to pressure the government, pressure them peacefully towards change. This is the answer that the government, the military junta, has for any kind of movement towards social change in El Salvador: just more workers' blood, they can't get enough.

Now we're hearing a lot of talk, both



Anti-Imperialist Contingent rallies at Farragut Park, Washington, D.C., on March 27.

by the reformists here in the United States and by the FDR, the so-called "opposition" in El Salvador, about negotiating a solution with Garcia and Duarte, the very leaders, the very ones who make the orders to break the strikes, to kill the peasants. To cut some kind of deal with these butchers, what would it mean? For one thing, it would mean leaving the very military apparatus responsible for fifty years of military rule free to start another *matanza* [massacre].

We heard about the *matanza* of 1932, when peasants rose up in western El Salvador to try to win back the land stolen from them by the coffee oligarchy, the workers to try to improve their working conditions. I talked with survivors of that revolution in Nahuizalco. They told me how the males were called to the square once the revolt had been put down. Called to the square to get their free-conduct passes. Their "free-conduct" passes turned out to be string, their thumbs were tied behind their backs, and they were killed in groups of six, buried in a mass grave. In Nahuizalco alone, something like 900, mostly Indians, were killed. Across El Salvador 30,000 people were killed.

This is what that bloodthirsty oligarchy has in store after another "negotiated solution." And what would a negotiated solution mean for the 30,000 workers, students, teachers, peasants, who have already died in El Salvador, died because they wanted to see a new society in El Salvador? A sellout. So that's why I say to you today: no negotiated settlement, for military victory to the left-wing insurgents in El Salvador, for workers revolution in El Salvador, and may that revolution spread to Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico!

Al Nelson

Spartacist League Central Committee.

A very ugly incident today. Our contingent was sealed off by the U.S. park police, SWAT teams, mounted cops. How did that happen?

When we got there this morning, we were told by the park police that the organizers of the March 27 Coalition did not want the Anti-Imperialist Contingent in that park. Now, starting about three weeks ago we began to hear persistent rumors of very serious violence directed at the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. And there is also the

possibility of violence coming from right-wing quarters as well. We sent them [the March 27 Coalition] a letter, from our contingent to their coalition—dated March 16, hand delivered March 17—expressing our concerns about these matters, and saying to them we wanted to start negotiating to establish liaison to work out any difficulties in advance, in order to minimize any kind of confusion or collisions [see "Letter to March 27 Coalition," WV No. 301, 19 March]. We got no answer. Nothing.

Then we took the initiative the other night. We went over to their office, made a direct offer in person to top representatives of CISPES, the main organization in the Coalition. We said we should coordinate our efforts for March 27 so there is not divisiveness. We have our sharp political differences, it is true. You are for negotiations, that means a negotiated cease-fire in El Salvador; we are for a victory to the leftist insurgents. They are very sharp differences. However, we are both opposed to the present policies of the U.S. government. That ought to provide a basis within which differences should be able to exist. That wasn't good enough for them. Nothing.

So this morning we show up here to demonstrate peacefully and to express our political opinions to the 20,000 people that are at that demonstration. We get there, they go to the police, tell the police: keep these people out.

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Just Out!

Spartacist

(English Edition)
No. 33, Spring 1982

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WORKERS VANGUARD

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

EDITOR: Jen Norden

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Charles Burroughs

PRODUCTION: Darlene Kamiure (Manager), Noah Wilner

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Linda Jarreau

EDITORIAL BOARD: George Foster, Liz Gordon, Mark Kellermann, James Robertson, Reuben Semuels, Joseph Seymour, Marjorie Stenberg

Workers Vanguard (USPS 098-770) published biweekly, skipping an issue in August and a week in December, by the Spartacist Publishing Co., 41 Warren Street, New York, NY 10007. Telephone 732-7862 (Editorial), 732-7861 (Business). Address all correspondence to Box 1377, GPO, New York, NY 10116. Domestic subscriptions, \$5.00/24 issues. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY.

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

No. 302

2 April 1982

Take San Salvador!...

(continued from page 3)

"They're not part of our coalition, keep them out." So we start working, explaining this, doing that, we finally get enough pressure going to get our contingent inside.

Then they tried to seal us off. They formed a link around us because they didn't want people to come and hear what we had to say. They didn't want people to join the Anti-Imperialist Contingent, which stands for military victory, and they committed a provocation there that brought in the police. Then the police sealed us off. So there's a combination of people who claim to be opposing the policies of the U.S. government, using the forces of the police to prevent demonstrators from joining our contingent.

Why? Are they just bad people? No, they're in a *political* bind, because their political line is for a negotiated settlement. Many people here remember the end of the Vietnam War. There was a large wing of the Vietnam antiwar movement that was for a negotiated settlement. That means something in practice—a cease-fire on the battlefield. But the talk of negotiations only really got serious when it was clear that the NLF was *winning*. That's when you heard talk about negotiations.

The revolution in Vietnam was a victory and it was accomplished on the battlefield by the NLF and their forces. In El Salvador right now the leftist guerrillas are winning. It's clear if Reagan has his way, he'd make El Salvador one great big irradiated area and that would be it. But there are divisions even within his own party. But their intentions are clear—do not forget 1965 in Santo Domingo—65,000 Marines hit that place, because there was a civil war.

So the people that make up a sizable component of the March 27 Coalition have a political line that is rapidly being overtaken by reality. They say negotiations—what's being said on the battlefield in El Salvador is victory to the leftist rebels. And you cannot stand aside and be neutral in a civil war—there's only two sides. And the point of this exclusion is to try and do by coercion what cannot be accomplished politically. Events are overtaking them, so they resort to police, the forces of the bourgeois state.

Many people wanted to join us there today and they were confronted by monitors first and police second. That's an atrocity. It's a democratic question but behind it is the political reason. We came to peacefully demonstrate. We had our own monitors to assure the safety of the demonstrators, because you never know what's going to happen. What happened up there was a display of the worst kind of divisions in the



"Win the war in El Salvador—that's what this rally is for."

movement and it's a reflection of their rotten politics, which puts them in a popular front—that is to say a bloc with a section of your own ruling class. You have a right to know what happened up there today. These people using the forces of the bourgeois state attempted to seal off you and all others from the only program that corresponds to the political reality in El Salvador: Military Victory to the Leftist Insurgents!

Jorge Ramirez

[Translated from Spanish]

Welcome to the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. We are gathered today in the heart of the imperialist monster to say that in the face of the sinister threats of Reagan and Haig to intervene militarily in Central America, we have a revolutionary answer: For military victory to the leftist insurgents!

The guerrillas have got the junta on the run. And now that it's clear that the *gorilas* [military butchers] cannot win on the battlefield; now that the vast majority in the U.S. is opposed to intervention, *now* we are hearing all the talk about negotiations.

There was a Salvadoran who put it very nicely. You've heard of him, Farabundo Marti, the Communist leader of the 1932 uprising. Here is what he called for in a leaflet shortly before the insurrection:

"The Communist Party calls all workers and poor peasants of El Salvador to bloody struggle against the national bourgeoisie, who are unconditionally allied to Yankee imperialism."

Does that sound like a negotiated settlement? No! And if Farabundo Marti were here today, he wouldn't be speaking from the "official" platform—he would be labeled ultraleftist, provocateur. This is the platform from which he could speak! We are the only ones with the real tradition, because we know that the only possible solution, the

only realistic solution for the Salvadoran masses is the road of the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917. There is nothing to negotiate with the butchers and their imperialist partners! The only solution for the Salvadoran civil war is a workers revolution! That's why we say: Workers and Peasants of El Salvador, Take San Salvador! Down with the Junta, Workers to Power!

Emily

Militant phone worker.

I want to read you today a motion that was passed by a union local that took a side in the civil war in El Salvador, for military victory to the leftist insurgents there. And when they did they passed this motion in this largely black local, the membership applauded because they knew they had to take a side in that war and they knew which side they were on. This motion was passed by CWA Local 9415 in Oakland:

"Whereas, Reagan/Haig have in effect declared war on Nicaragua by openly backing a Bay of Pigs-style invasion force to overthrow the Sandinista government and restore Somocista terror, and

"Whereas, Reagan/Haig are making Central America the front line in their anti-Soviet war drive by training Salvadoran troops in the U.S., posting spy ships off the coast of El Salvador, and hysterically trying to whip up support for military intervention into the Salvadoran civil war by peddling the grossest lies, and

"Whereas Reagan/Haig seek to prop up the murderous and losing junta which has killed 30,000 workers and peasants and vowed to kill many times more than this if it wins, and

"Whereas the liberals who call for negotiations for a 'political solution' are asking guerrillas to lay down their arms, which would result in their slaughter by government troops and rightist death squads:

"Be it resolved that CWA Local 9415 oppose Reagan's anti-Soviet, anti-Cuban war drive and that the local march in Oakland on March 27 under the following slogans: U.S.—Hands Off El Salvador, Nicaragua and Cuba! Stop all U.S. military and economic aid to the junta! No negotiations—military victory to Salvadoran leftists! For labor action to stop U.S. intervention! Hot cargo all military goods to El Salvador and other Central American dictators! Break with the Democrats—For labor action to bring down Reagan!"

Now that's a motion worth applauding. And that's the kind of stand the labor movement in this country has to take.

Don Andrews

Spartacist League Central Committee.

I want to talk a little bit about what happened in Ann Arbor last weekend. The Nazis said that they were going to march in Ann Arbor. They marched all right, they marched right back to their rat holes. One of the reasons they said that they were going to come to Ann Arbor is because they hate those who oppose U.S. policy in El Salvador. They said that they were going to come to

Ann Arbor since they hate everybody in Ann Arbor, I guess with the exception of the mayor of the city, a pretty well-off Republican, who of course did everything in his power to allow the Nazis to march.

But we had a terrific victory one week ago because close to 2,000 demonstrators—labor, students and minorities—drove the Nazis out of Ann Arbor. The Spartacist League took the initiative; we formed the Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20. You see, what they wanted to do was to get a foothold in Ann Arbor and then target the working class in Detroit. They were frustrated. Now they're talking about going to Detroit in May, but if they do maybe next time they'll be using their swastikas as tourniquets.

Our successful mobilization wasn't the first time that it happened. Some of you may recall when the Klan attempted to march in downtown Detroit right after the Greensboro massacre, we mobilized a lot of black workers, socialists and black youth to stop them. Of course we had to overcome the opposition of the Democratic Party machine in that city, Coleman Young being the leader of the pack. Several months later in San Francisco, the Nazis were talking about celebrating Hitler's birthday. They didn't march that day, labor marched that day. And one week ago in Ann Arbor black people, Jewish people, students and working people were given a powerful shot in the arm. A lot of inspiration is coming out of that successful anti-fascist mobilization.

I'm going to read a statement from one of the participants in that struggle, Al Wells, who is the chairman of the retirees of UAW Local 1776, Ypsilanti, Michigan:

"I was sorry that I could not make it. I'm going to Chicago to vote against concessions [to the auto companies]. Reagan don't care for poor people, he's cut out every program that favors poor people. So he evidently does like poor people because he's trying to create so many more of them. While we are starving here, they are sending \$26 million to El Salvador. I think we should get rid of that evil in Washington. We ran the Nazis out of Ann Arbor and we'll do the same thing in Washington when it becomes necessary. Tell them at the rally, I'm not there with them in person, but I am with them in spirit. God bless them and march on to victory."

Ed Kartsen

Former candidate for Transport Workers Union Local 100 president.

In this country the Nazi party and the Ku Klux Klan are Reagan's shock troops for anti-Communism. At Greensboro leftists, trade-union organizers, civil rights leaders were shot down in cold blood and these fascists got off scot-free. It is those same fascists who came to Ann Arbor to call for American intervention in El Salvador. It's these same fascists who came there to call for the genocide against blacks, the destruction of labor unions, the smashing of the left. And they were driven out! We celebrate that victory. The Spartacist League initiated that mobilization, and that's what's needed to drive these fascist creeps back into the holes where they come from.

But there's a reason why they're out there. They're out there because Reagan and Haig are on an offensive against the working class here and internationally. El Salvador is the first front line in Reagan and Haig's war against the USSR, against Cuba. It is his first battleground in the attempt to roll back the gains of the October Revolution; he wants to destroy the gains that the workers achieved in 1917 with the overthrow of capitalism. So too, he wants to use his fascist shock troops here to destroy the labor movement and to roll back every gain of the working-class movement and of the oppressed in this country. The fascist shock troops are used to pacify blacks, who are being suppressed and ground down by Rea-

SPARTACIST LEAGUE LOCAL DIRECTORY

National Office
Box 1377, GPO
New York, NY 10116
(212) 732-7860

Amherst
c/o SYL
P.O. Box 176
Amherst, MA 01004
(413) 546-9906

Ann Arbor
c/o SYL
P.O. Box 8364
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
(313) 662-2339

Berkeley/Oakland
P.O. Box 32552
Oakland, CA 94604
(415) 835-1535

Boston
Box 840, Central Station
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 492-3928

Champaign
c/o SYL
P.O. Box 2009
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 384-7793

Chicago
Box 6441, Main P.O.
Chicago, IL 60680
(312) 427-0003

Cleveland
Box 6765
Cleveland, OH 44101
(216) 621-5138

Detroit
Box 32717
Detroit, MI 48232
(313) 858-9095

Houston
Box 26474
Houston, TX 77207

Los Angeles
Box 29574
Los Feliz Station
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 662-1564

Madison
c/o SYL
Box 2074
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 255-2342

New York
Box 444
Canal Street Station
New York, NY 10013
(212) 267-1025

San Francisco
Box 5712
San Francisco, CA 94101
(415) 863-6963

TROTSKYIST LEAGUE OF CANADA

Toronto
Box 7198, Station A
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X8
(416) 593-4138

Vancouver
Box 26, Station A
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2L8
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gan's campaign to destroy the social gains of the civil rights movement, welfare, Medicaid.

To prepare for war, to mobilize this country on the sentiment of race, blood and god; to mobilize the frenzy of this country to go to war with Russia. But we say no! We will not capitulate to anti-Communism on any level. Where CISPES says to raise the question of the USSR is absurd, we say no. Not to raise the question of defense of the workers' gains here and around the world is to march in step with Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive. And the threats to the gains of October come not only from the Haigs and the Reagans of the world. They also come from the Soviet bureaucracy, which wants to make a deal with imperialism through "détente." No to "détente," no negotiating away the gains of October! The defense of Cuba and USSR begins in El Salvador! Smash the Nazis, Smash the Klan, Only workers defense guards can!

Les Friedman

*Chairman, Chicago chapter of the Greensboro Justice Fund.**

I just want to clarify why this is the first major public action that I have joined with the Anti-Imperialist Contingent and why I've come around to this position. I'm just going to compare it to my own experience. Would you ask the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto uprising who were fighting the Nazis to negotiate with the Nazis, or would you call for military victory of anyone fighting the Nazis? Would you have called for the American Indians, who were always



Les Friedman

WV Photo

betrayed? After every massacre U.S. leaders would make a treaty with them, negotiate and then exterminate them again for hundreds of years.

For those who want socialist revolution in El Salvador, in Nicaragua, there is only one way to have it. There are many walking by who believe in socialist revolution, but they haven't come to the clear position that only through military victory of the left guerrillas can there be a socialist revolution in El Salvador. All those who are for a socialist revolution have to stand for military victory of the left insurgents. Onward!

Mark Donaghy

Former PAM marshal.

I am now a member of the Spartacus Youth League in Boston. And I was down here in Washington last May 3rd as a member of PAM, the People's Antiwar Mobilization, who had called a demo against Reagan's policies in El Salvador. I had volunteered then to be one of their marshals because they said they were afraid that some right wingers were going to come and disrupt the march.

So during the demonstration we were walking along and they told us that the

*Organization listed for identification only.

Moonies were up ahead, we had to run up to this bridge and go intercept them. So I run up to this bridge and I don't see any Moonies anywhere but what I see is the Spartacist League and they're being excluded just like they're being excluded today. There's a big line set up there and they're stopping the SL from distributing its literature and talking to people in the march. When I saw this I was disgusted and I refused to take part in it.

It was obvious what was going on there. The organizers of that march were physically trying to silence the only group that was calling for military victory to the Salvadoran left. And after seeing what happened, it became very apparent to me what the concern was of groups like CISPES and PAM: These people don't want the leftists to win.

So I switched sides since last May 3rd, and as you look around at this demonstration you can see for yourself which group really stands on the side of the workers and the oppressed around the world. You can see which group is carrying the banner of revolutionary communist politics and that is the Spartacist League and the Spartacus Youth League.

Karen

Spartacus Youth League, Chicago.

I came to Washington last May 3rd because I wanted to support the struggle of the workers and peasants of El Salvador. And the first thing I did when I got back from Washington to Chicago was join the SYL. Because I saw in Washington that the SYL and only the SYL was really fighting for the El Salvadoran workers and peasants to win. Only the SYL calls for military victory to the leftist insurgents in El Salvador. The choice is truly revolution or death. It is a treacherous betrayal to advise the Salvadoran workers and peasants to entrust their fate to bourgeois politicians. They can defend their own interests only by carrying their struggle forward to victory on the battlefield, expropriating the murderous oligarchy and establishing a workers government. There is no other way.

For Reagan and Haig, first the insurgents in El Salvador must be crushed. Then Nicaragua, where the State Department is talking about ultimately overthrowing the government and bringing back the Somoza clan. Then on to Cuba to restore the Mafia and the sugar companies. Then finally the real target: restoring capitalism in the USSR.

Let me tell you something about Cuba. They've got plenty of problems. There is no workers democracy, but they wiped out starvation and illiteracy, and infant mortality is the lowest in Latin America and they wiped out the Cuban version of Jim Crow. There is a planned economy in Cuba and we will defend this planned economy against U.S. imperialism. And by the way, the Cubans didn't get these things by negotiating with Batista, they won on the battlefield. If you support the battlefield victory of the Salvadoran insurgents over the bloody U.S.-backed junta, if you oppose Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive, if you want to fight for a working-class victory over the bosses here at home, if you want to fight for a decent socialist future, then take a side like I did and join the SYL!

Reuben Samuels

Spartacist League Central Committee.

We hail the victories of the rebels in El Salvador. But now that they are winning the war, there's a lot of people running around, including in that demonstration that's passing by, who want to stop the war. The same thing happened during the Vietnam period. It's not accidental that beginning with a letter that was initiated in the House of Representatives calling for "No More Vietnams," the House of Representatives has now gone on record for a "political solution" in El Salvador, to stop the war short of

the destruction of this bloody military junta. That victory in Vietnam, in which the workers and peasants defeated the mightiest imperialist power in history, has inspired all the struggles since then, from the mountains of El Salvador to the mines of South Africa.

It is this so-called "Vietnam syndrome," the fear of another defeat, that has stayed the hands of U.S. imperialism from direct military involvement on a massive scale in Angola and now in El Salvador. It is this cry of "No More Vietnams" that has been raised by the bourgeois defeatists, the Teddy Kennedys, the Bella Abzugs, who today the March 27 Coalition is marching for. This march is an attempt to refurbish the party that brought you



Allison Spencer

WV Photo

Vietnam, the party that brought you Bay of Pigs, the party that brought you the Duarte junta, the Democratic Party. The slogan of "No war" when the U.S.-backed junta is losing a war is a slogan of a defeated bourgeois imperialism. It is a slogan to refurbish their image in order to prepare for the next Vietnam, the next El Salvador, the next Angola. Because when it comes to the direct war drive with the Soviet Union the Democratic Party and the Republicans are hand in hand.

So the lessons of the struggle against the Vietnam War are that the United States was defeated on the battlefield, not at the negotiating table and not in the streets of Washington and New York, where protest movements were led into the Democratic Party. It is not enough to protest in the streets even with the NLF flags and even chanting military victory to the NLF and military victory for the leftist insurgents. For imperialism to be decisively defeated it

must be defeated at home. The struggle against imperialist war must be carried into the working class, the only social force that has the power to shatter the imperialist system once and for all. That is the perspective of the Spartacist League, to which we are dedicated in building the party of the American working class and the party of the American revolution. Join us!

Alison Spencer

Spartacus Youth League National Committee.

I want to make an appeal to the March 27 Coalition that's marching by right now. There are a number of people in their march that wanted to come to our rally and tried to get through and they were prevented by their own marshals. What is this? Their march is going to the White House and they had at the head of their march the stars and stripes of Yankee imperialism. What do we have here at our rally? The FMLN flag, the flag of the guerrilla fighters in El Salvador. We have the red flag of the Russian Revolution, the first workers revolution in history, the revolution that still stands today as the program of workers around the world. Yet PAM and CISPES are leading them to the White House behind the stars and stripes of Yankee imperialism to moo for cows like Bella Abzug, to stump for Congressmen like Gerry Studds. Join us! Take a side for military victory!

Why are they preventing you from joining this rally? Because they don't want the rebels to win in El Salvador. But I ask you, if you support the working people of El Salvador, what is so hard about asking that they win the war? Win the war in El Salvador: that's what this rally is for, to defeat the junta's terror. But the PAM/March 27 Coalition/CISPES rally is a rally for the Democratic Party, the enemies of revolution. They simply want to pressure Reagan and Attila the Haig into reforming their policies in Central America. Our rally here is to defeat imperialism at home and abroad. We urge you to come over and join the military victory contingent. Take a side, join us! If the workers and peasants put down their guns, the junta is still armed to mow them down. So we say no ceasefire, workers take San Salvador! No draft, Class war! Workers take San Salvador! ■

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- Break With the Democrats—For Workers Action to Bring Down Reagan
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March 27...

(continued from page 1)

At Lafayette Park the March 27 Coalition "doves" had Salvadoran FDR spokesman Arnaldo Ramos (a dissident Christian Democrat) proclaiming "we do not take pride in our military activity"; at Farragut Park the Anti-Imperialist Contingent called for the workers and peasants to "Take San Salvador!" Since the reformists' program increasingly flies in the face of reality, they can't defend it politically and resort to anti-communist slanders and exclusion. But massive frame-up and repression only go so far. Even without the aggressive presence of the Spartacist League, the ravenous appetites of Yankce imperialism put time on the side of the revolutionaries. And our rad-lib opponents know it.

Exclusions, Slanders, Threats

March 27 was hardly the first time they tried to exclude our red flags and anti-imperialist banners from El Salvador marches. Last May 3 the People's Antiwar Mobilization (PAM) front group of Marcy's Workers World/YAWF set up a daisy chain of flower children linking arms to prevent people from attending our rally at the Pentagon. Unfortunately they didn't get a badly needed lesson on the spot. But when Marcy's goons tried it again a month later, attacking an SL protest demonstration outside a PAM forum in New York, they got a taste of our vigorously defended workers democracy. Having failed to silence the Spartacists they turned to the capitalist state to do their dirty work for them, directly appealing to the cops to exclude us in Chicago (May 30) and New York (November 22). And again on February 20 in NYC leaders of the doves' scaled-up Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) deliberately provoked police intervention to keep out the Anti-Imperialist Contingent.

These anti-communist exclusions were clearly aimed against the Trotskyist politics of the Spartacist League. A letter from the *Guardian* attempted to justify such censorship, saying that our slogan "Defense of Cuba, USSR Begins in El Salvador" did not fit into the "principles of unity" of the various coalitions! And several weeks later this "independent radical" rag refused to publish our ad for a March 20 benefit/rally to build the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. As March 27 drew near, the rad-libs launched a rumor campaign of slander and threats against the SL. On March 20 a WBAI radio announcer, one John Fisk, libeled the SL as government agents. An NYC transit worker was told by a prominent Socialist Workers Party (SWP) supporter that if he went to Washington with the Contingent he would be called a communist. (And that's not a low for an organization that was long ago founded as the Communist



Cossacks and SWAT cops turn Anti-Imperialist Contingent assembly area into temporary detention camp.

League of America, but now fuels anti-communism.) We were labeled "disrupters" for refusing to accept the anti-red exclusions and breaking through their lines of goons.

In view of these repeated exclusions and the pervasive rumors of heavy violence against us, the Spartacist League wrote to the March 27 Coalition proposing talks to work out arrangements for the upcoming demonstration. Our letter noted that we and they "share a common opposition to Reagan's increasingly ominous threats" while sharply differing on the solution. We proposed advance coordination in order to "avoid unnecessary physical clashes in the face of a police presence and the possibility of extra-legal Reaganite provocation." Our letter, written on March 16 (and published in the 19 March *WV*), was hand-delivered in Washington on the 17th and received by New York CISPES the next day. On the West Coast CISPES responded to our letter on Monday, March 22 and talks were held on Tuesday; on Wednesday the SL presented a proposal concerning line of march, sound systems, etc. On the East Coast it was another story. Despite numerous phone calls to Coalition headquarters in Washington and New York we received no answer.

Meanwhile rumors of provocation and threats against the Spartacist League, including possible use of deadly force (baseball bats) by some elements, were circulating at a rate we have never before experienced. So on March 24 we sent a delegation to New York CISPES to propose measures toward minimizing points of friction on the 27th and to establish formal liaison, noting the West Coast meeting. We also contacted numerous Coalition endorsers protesting the rumors of provocation and threats of violence, and informed the D.C. Metro Police and U.S. Park Police of our plans for the assembly site and

our Farragut Park rally. When we still had received no response from the Coalition we returned to their headquarters on the evening of the 25th and laid out our plans in detail. To undercut the prospect of violent clashes and allay any misplaced fears that the Contingent might contest the order of march, we chose not to march but to exit the assembly site at a separate exit and walk by another route to the Anti-Imperialist rally. We informed CISPES of our specific plans and then published them as a map in our leaflet announcing the rally (see illustration). CISPES complained of all the calls they had been receiving from their own supporters about anti-Spartacist threats, and once again said they would get back to us (don't call us, we'll call you). They never did.

The leaders of the March 27 Coalition had every opportunity to work out equitable arrangements with the Anti-Imperialist Contingent for Washington. They did not do so because their aim was to exclude the reds altogether, to keep communist politics out of their march for the Democrats. Some of the more frenzied anti-Spartacists had something else in mind, though. They wanted a bloody provocation, and while doing their best to get it, failed.

Assembly Site Detention Center

So the stage was set. On the morning of March 27, there was a CISPES goon squad of 30-40 deployed at our designated entrance to Malcolm X Park by 7 a.m. It was composed mainly of Marcyites who under their cover as Coalition "marshals" were pursuing their vendetta against the Spartacists. When spokesmen for the Anti-Imperialist Contingent approached the gate at 8:00 a.m. we were met by a police official who said we could not enter because "the Coalition" did not want us there. He mentioned that the cops standing around were not

ordinary police but the SWAT squad. A block away they had two busloads of riot cops together with vans for their arsenal. Shortly after, 25 motorcycle cops with riot clubs drove up, blocking us off with a line of cycles; some time later a dozen mounted police arrived. The Marcyite goons blocked the entrance with tables. Around 9:00 Anti-Imperialist Contingent and Spartacist banners went up opposite the park and a two-hour standoff ensued.

The Contingent began addressing the protesters on the other side of the police lines with agitational soapboxing. "We call for rebel victory, they call the cops!" began the chants. Soon much of the crowd in the park, several hundred at this point, was listening and watching attentively; some seated on the bannisters were holding signs for "Military Victory to Leftist Insurgents." A few people filtered across the street to join us. A Spartacus Youth League soapboxer asked listeners on the wall opposite. "Do you side with the workers and peasants of El Salvador? Are you for their victory and the defeat of the junta? If you're for that, if you are for militant struggle against imperialism—not marching with the Democratic Party which brought us Hiroshima, the Bay of Pigs and the 'reform junta' of 1979—if you're for labor action to bring down Reagan, then you belong with us."

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the Anti-Imperialist Contingent were vigorously protesting to the police that our democratic rights were being violated, and we were being prevented from doing what had previously been arranged with the authorities. We had put out tens of thousands of leaflets for the demonstration, there were going to be thousands in the park and we intended to go in like everyone else. We said that we were prepared to take hundreds of arrests in defense of our rights. This had an impact. So two Parks Department



Stars-and-stripes Coalition goon line: Now you see it...



...now you don't.

WV Photos

lawyers were brought from their homes by police cruiser to tell the official Coalition spokesmen they would have to sign a statement claiming imminent danger to safety—i.e., a formal request for police intervention—to keep the Anti-Imperialist Contingent out of the park. They did not dare to put their slanders in writing, thereby making clear that their claims for "protection" were a smokescreen for a political exclusion. And so at 10:40 we entered the assembly site at Malcolm X Park, red flags flying and chanting, "Junta no, obreros si—Overthrow the bourgeoisie!"

But the Marcyites were intent on causing an incident, and immediately began bringing in goons to ring the Anti-Imperialist Contingent with their chain of linked arms. They moved up to the sidewalk in front of our area and began packing more people in behind the line. This attempt to segregate the reds, a clear violation of any kind of democracy, could not be tolerated. We formed up a flying wedge to break through their line (which incidentally sported an American flag). This was quickly and effectively done, sending their goons running and leaving a number sprawled on the ground. Perhaps some of them will think twice next time before letting themselves be used for anti-communist exclusion; they should know that we can and will defend our right of access. It was over in a few seconds and our squad was already moving back by the time the cops charged in. For the rest of the afternoon, scores of riot cops and mounted police did the job the Marcyites were unable to do, sealing off the Anti-Imperialist Contingent to everyone, while another line of CISPES goons slunk behind the police.

On ABC-TV's network news program "Weekend Report" that evening, reporter Susan King accused the SL of publicity-seeking disruption:

"Protest organizers back a negotiated political settlement and prohibited a small fringe group of communists who back a leftist military victory from joining the coalition of demonstrators. Seeking attention the group known as Spartacist disrupted the morning rally by charging rival protesters and triggering a short but angry melee. Within minutes, mounted D.C. police established order. There were no arrests and only three were slightly injured."

Some "disruption"! We did not attack "rival protesters" but a line of goons with yellow armbands who had linked arms in order to prevent people from entering the Anti-Imperialist Contingent. We were the object of a deliberate provocation which we could not ignore. Elsewhere things were peaceful; throughout this time there were 80 Contingent leafleters with bullhorns, literature tables, signs and banners at the south end of the park, without incident. Only where the Marcyites tried to throw up a cordon to cut off access was there trouble. Attention we had plenty of all day. As for the "order" established by the cops it closely resembled a detention camp.

Even press were prevented from entering or leaving. WV reporters prominently displaying NYC Police Department press badges were repeat-

edly stopped, sometimes by a riot stick applied to the belly. So were others wearing official March 27 Coalition press badges. But not Ms. King. After the cops sealed us off, one of them was overheard telling her: "Well, Susan, you're just lucky you've got such a famous face that you can go back and forth between these lines." Everyone else had to sneak in or out through the shrubs.

Rally Site Detention Center

Shortly after 1 p.m., as previously arranged, 400 supporters of the Anti-Imperialist Contingent filed out of the assembly site five abreast and proceeded to Farragut Park to hold a rally along the line of the March 27 Coalition parade. Before the march approached, the cops again threw up a cordon sanitaire to cut off access to our event. Deputy Chief John Conner of the Special Operations Division, D.C. Metro Police, yelled at a Contingent spokesman: "I run the streets of Washington today. I'm telling you that nobody, *nobody* from this march is going into your rally. No negotiations!" They then set up an intimidating line of police vehicles (vans, motorcycles, mopeds and squad cars) and mounted police, and a second line of riot cops, behind which some Marcyite/CISPES goons set up their chain for much of the two hours it took the march to pass by. Repeatedly when people tried to cross the street they were ordered or shoved back, in flagrant violation of their rights of free speech and assembly, and of ours.

As the head of the march came past, demonstrators from the Anti-Imperialist Contingent lined the perimeter of the rally chanting "Stop the exclusions! Let the people through!" And there were countless incidents of people being prevented from entering the park. One woman who attempted to go through the police lines was jabbed by a cop and thrown back into the march. At the northwest corner of the park several protesters were stopped by cops or dragged back by Coalition "monitors" (see photos this page). Several photographers were stopped: one almost made it across before a policeman caught up with him, shouting threats of arrest. A vendor who had arranged to sell to the crowd in Farragut Park drove his truck up, but as soon as he parked the police threw him out. And when a woman tried to use our portable bathrooms she was stopped by a male cop and told she couldn't go. When she proceeded anyway he followed and jammed his club into her stomach.

Despite the repeated use of the capitalist police against the Anti-Imperialist Contingent, the March 27 crowd was not hostile to our call for military victory to Salvadoran leftist rebels. On the contrary. Scare tactics, such as labeling the Contingent "communist," by the servile tools of the bourgeoisie also fell flat since the Spartacist League openly proclaims its communist program. (Besides which, many of the pro-Democratic Party sellouts who used to have pasts are also self-declared big "C" or little "c" communists.) As for the "government agent" slander against the SL, only the most venal can still so insinuate after seeing the display of police force marshaled against us.

Sam Marcy: Democrats' Running Dog

The whole day showed a highly orchestrated display of police power, exercised so tightly and effectively as to turn both the Anti-Imperialist Contingent assembly point and our later rally into what were effectively temporary detention centers. The cops' sealing off of exits and access went far beyond any notion of "crowd control." Moreover, they simply tore up agreements made in good faith by our Contingent concerning our demonstration plans. The action

continued on page 8

An Awesome Display of Police Power

WV Photos



9 a.m.-11 a.m. Anti-Imperialist Contingent forms up; stopped by cops from entering Malcolm X Park at urging of Coalition (above and right).

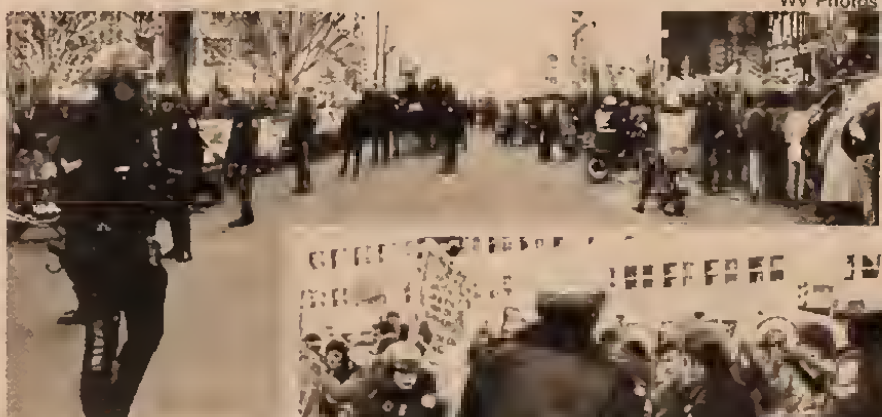


11:00 a.m. SWAT team readies outside park entrance; reinforcements on the bus behind the equipment vans.



11:15 a.m. Cops move in to seal off Anti-Imperialist Contingent as Coalition goons are dispersed (right).

WV Photos



3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Cops prevent Coalition marchers from joining Anti-Imperialist Rally.

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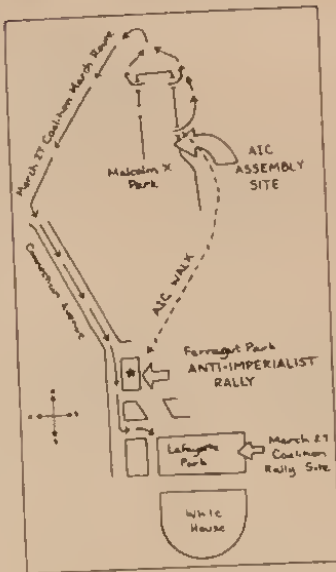
2-4 pm Today Farragut Park

—Speakers—

Tom Janota, last Peace Corps teacher to leave El Salvador
"Eyewitness to Junta Terror"
Jorge Ramirez, Latin Marxist
"IPor el Triunfo de los Insurgentes de Izquierda!"
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"The Global Class War—
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Alison Spencer, Spartacus Youth League
"Why U.S. Rad-Libs Sell Out Salvadoran Struggle"
Ed Kertsen, black union militant
"For Labor Action to Smash the Nazis/Klen
and Bring Down Reagan!"

Music • Refreshments
Bathrooms

Defense of Cuba and USSR
Begins in El Salvador!
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Bring Down Reagan!



March 27...

(continued from page 7)

of the police amounted to prejudicial detention to seal off our politics, violating our civil rights at the behest of the March 27 Coalition. The Anti-Imperialist Contingent lodged a formal complaint with the mayor's Command Center protesting this excessive use and misuse of police power, and reminding him of the high cost to the city the last time it carried out mass arrests of antiwar demonstrators (in 1971, resulting in the demonstrators' successful million dollar court suit).

It has to be noted that at each point the Marcyites sought to provoke, aided, abetted and participated in this police abuse and repression. This is part of a consistent pattern on their part ever since last May 3 and June 6 when we smashed their attempt to bust up our peaceful demonstration in New York. For many years Marcy's YAWF cultivated an image as street fighters, and now that they are going all out to become the best demonstration-builders for the Democrats they have trained their sights on the Spartacist League. Here they have a division of labor with the SWP and the CP, who peddle the Marcyite slanders but differ on the methods of exclusion: the CP calls the

cops, the SWP is worried that Judge Griesa doesn't like brawls, while YAWF specializes in provocation. (There were, incidentally, several reports of metal objects at the assembly site, and two white males from the official march were seen across the street from our Farragut Park rally with wrenches in their back pockets.) The Marcyites are acting as calculating provocateurs intent on manipulating CISPES against the SL, seeking to escalate the sharp political differences into violent physical confrontations.

The CISPES/PAM/CP/SWP popular-frontists are trying to build a movement for the liberal wing of American imperialism by contending that the struggle in Central America has nothing to do with Communism. Reagan/Haig say they are drawing the line against Communism in the Caribbean; CISPES & Co. cover their ears and denounce the Spartacist League for telling the truth about imperialism's global designs. Everyone knows Reagan's target is the USSR, but the reformists pretend not to know in order to court the Democrats, who share the target but differ somewhat about the means.

In El Salvador the choice is "Revolution or Death." And even in the U.S. it is increasingly clear that the only real solutions are revolutionary solutions.



Anti-Imperialism
abroad means
class struggle
at home.



WV Photo

Hence the increasing use of exclusion and cop-baiting against us. CISPES/PAM used to argue that the Spartacists are ultra-leftists: the SL says no negotiations, isn't that unrealistic? But this argument no longer works. So the reformists must now say: sure the Spart line sounds good, but it's just an agent's trick. Thus our opponents have to grant the attractiveness of our line, the closest these cynics will ever come to admitting that their line for "political solution" is patently a disaster.

A decade ago the Marcyites and New Left radicals were chanting the slogan of the heroic Che Guevara: "Two, Three, Many Vietnams!" Now the Marcyite-ex-radicals call for "No More Vietnams," seeking a bloc with the liberal imperialists who fear another *losing* colonial war.

The Vietnam War saw two "political

solutions" (1945 and 1954) which divided up the country. But it took the NLF/North Vietnamese military victory to bring peace to Indochina. In El Salvador today, only the victory of the leftist rebels can put an end to the hideous massacres. And here at home, revulsion against the junta mass murderers, fear of Reagan's drive toward holocaust and desperation in the face of capitalist economic crisis are driving thousands of youth and working people toward the conclusion that determined struggle, not negotiations, is what's needed from Central America to the U.S. Our rad-lib opponents' fixation on the Spartacist League is a kind of fetishism, for at this juncture it is not mainly the activity of the SL but the blood-lust of Yankee imperialism itself which exposes the reformists' line for the cynical fraud that it is. ■

March 27 Coalition Marshal Denounces Slander, Exclusion

31 March 1982
New York City

Workers Vanguard
Editorial Board

Dear Comrades,

I am writing this letter to you about the events surrounding the 27 March demonstration on El Salvador held in Washington, D.C. I have been a marshal at several of the large anti-war demonstrations held in the 1960's, and was asked to be one at the 3 May 1981 and 27 March 1982 ones.

I was first disturbed by the events there when I and several other marshals in my group picked up a chant containing the word "revolution." We were told by one of the head marshals that we were simply there to preserve order and that we should stop chanting. This certainly contrasts to what I later heard was the CISPES/PAM use of the marshals in an organized form to chant and thus drown out Anti-Imperialist Contingent speakers!

I was also upset by the various stories circulated among the marshals about the AIC and the Spartacist League. We were told that you were "crazy," "CIA provocateurs," and that your recent young recruits were "hotheads who could not be controlled by the older party members." Thus CISPES/PAM attempted to deal with the political differences separating it from the AIC with slander rather than public debate, and moved to impermissible physical, instead of necessary political, confrontation. The SL's "Letter to March 27 Coalition" was a calm, rational approach to the problems of all protesters in Washington, and showed a mature and marked con-

cern for the safety of everyone involved.

Ironically, despite the attempt to organize the CISPES/PAM marshals against possible SL/AIC "disruption," most marshals were poorly trained and badly organized. Thus, if there had been a real physical attack on the march by right-wing forces, we would not have been able to protect the march participants.

I first felt that the march had no clear political character to unite all of the people on it, that the CISPES/PAM chants were scattered and incoherent in contrast to those of the AIC, that the politics of the speakers were fragmented with no coherent world-wide view, and that little was done to give the young, seemingly apolitical, people on the march any form of political education about the realities in the U.S. and around the world. I now realize that this seeming absence of politics had a political thrust—that of the Democratic Party, and that the march organizers had to prevent any clear left political pole from developing. This was the reason for the slanders of the SL and the exclusion of the AIC.

I have only recently become seriously interested in studying the SL's politics, but I understand the idea of a world-wide class line, and the necessity for calling for military victory of the left in El Salvador. In the future, I want to work with the SL as the only viable group in the U.S. calling for this, and attempting in a serious and disciplined fashion to educate the new political generation as to the realities of capitalism in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Comradely yours,
Stewart Baldwin

Labor Contingent Marches in Bay Area for Salvador Rebel Victory

OAKLAND—Red flags snapping in the breeze, the Anti-Imperialist Contingent sharply polarized an otherwise dreary demonstration of some 3,000 people here, called by the CISPES-initiated March 27 Coalition. Marching with an official contingent of phone workers from Oakland CWA Local 9415—which had earlier voted to march for Salvadoran leftist victory—the Anti-Imperialist Contingent grew to 150, probably the largest organized presence at the event.

The phone workers marched behind their union standard, numerous signs and an impressive banner reading "Military Victory to Salvadoran Leftists, Break with the Democrats, For Labor Action to Bring Down Reagan—CWA Local 9415." They were joined by other phone militants from San Francisco (CWA Local 9410), San Jose (Local 9423) and Los Angeles (Local 11502). At the Rilea Railroad Park assembly site, they led off the chants for "Military Victory" while the CISPES supporters stood around or sprawled passively on the grass.

A split in the reformists' coalition prior to the march had led them to set up two competing March 27 rallies in the Bay Area. Thus a small Communist Party (CP)/Casa El Salvador rally of about 500 took place in San Francisco. In Oakland the only difference was that the CISPES reformists added a futile, stupid tactic to their wretched line. Organizing a "non-violent blockade" of the Oakland Naval Supply Center (only at one entrance) they tried to get the blockaders arrested and set up a picket line to march nearby.

Although it looked like the notoriously brutal, racist Oakland PD was not even going to bother arresting them, the 128 who remained on the facility hours after the "blockade" began were finally busted. A motley

crew marched with the Oakland blockaders, including the scab-sect Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). One union militant denounced them over the bullhorn: "These people say it's all right to cross picket lines. You better not try to cross a CWA Local 9415 picket line!" When the RWL passed out a scurrilous leaflet attempting to take credit for the successful SL-initiated anti-Nazi mobilization in Ann Arbor on March 20, they were met with angry shouts of "scabs!"

Prior to the demonstration, on March 19, the Spartacist League initiated negotiations with the Coalition, with the aim of avoiding physical clashes. Although the Coalition did not answer our concrete proposals, there were no instances of goon violence or police cordons of the sort provoked by the reformists in other cities. They did, however, attempt to steal our "military victory" signs. And when the Anti-Imperialist Contingent chucked out a provocateur, who had urged militants to rush the gate of the Oakland Naval Supply Center and later struck a member of the Contingent, the reformists raised a hue and cry.

Spartacist spokesman Diana Coleman told the crowd: "American workers better oppose the anti-Soviet war drive, because it is part and parcel of the war against minorities and labor in this country. The labor leaders today are in favor of Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive, they're in favor of the Democrats and they're not doing shit as the plants are closed down at General Motors and Detroit is turned into a vast sea of unemployment. The Spartacist League and its supporters in the unions are the only ones who are calling for sit-down strikes against plant closures.... We need the struggle for workers power in this country, for socialist revolution."



WV Photo

Ann Arbor...

(continued from page 12)

League was slow, for in the minutes when the crowd stood face to face with the Hitler-lovers before the cops interceded, leadership was lacking.

The triumphant crowd, some waving trophies, including the Nazis' splintered flagstaff, streamed back to the City Hall rally. They enthusiastically cheered

Committee spokesman Al Nelson's statement:

"I think everybody here today feels a sense of victory.... The Nazis got their asses kicked and whoever was involved in that deserves credit for it."

Building to Stop the Nazis

Two thousand people didn't turn out to stop the Nazis by accident. It took hard work. And it also meant overcoming the liberal "ignore-the-Nazis" diversion and the lesser efforts of local

centrist groups to sabotage the Stop the Nazis campaign. The mass turnout is above all a tribute to the deeply felt outrage among Ann Arbor residents at the Nazi scum's intention to terrorize their community. It is also a vindication of the SL's program for labor/black mobilizations to stop the Nazi/Klan terror.

More than 65,000 "Stop the Nazis" leaflets were distributed—20,000 of them to the potential big battalion of the anti-Nazi protest: the auto workers at plants like GM's Willow Run, Hydro-Matic and Wayne Assembly plants and Ford's Ypsilanti, Saline, Rawsonville and River Rouge complexes. Thousands of posters lined the streets of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and the largely Jewish community of Southfield, where the Nazis staged a provocation last year. Organizers addressed meetings at fraternity houses, dormitories and classes at the University of Michigan and other area schools. Hundreds of students signed up to work with the Committee and many volunteered to get up at five in the morning to pass out flyers to workers at auto plants. Phone calls poured in offering support and help. Many merchants took posters and leaflets for their customers.

Ann Arbor's small black community was vitally interested in the Committee's plans. Former University of Michigan Black Advocate Richard Garland was active in getting out the word, putting the Committee in touch with several community groups which helped distribute leaflets. As one black auto

worker put it: "I'm not scared of the Russians. I'm scared of this country here." A black maintenance worker at the VA hospital said: "I fought them in World War II, and I was supposed to be fighting for freedom, but when I came back here, they wouldn't let me vote."

While the mainstream Jewish organization leaders tended to line up with the mayor's "respectable" diversion, relatives of Holocaust survivors and a large number of Jewish youth worked with the Committee to Stop the Nazis.

Union support was key. Several local

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WV Photo

Veteran union militant Alphonso Wells: "They came in goose-stepping, they went out turkey-trotting."

WORKERS VANGUARD

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When Nazis Were Cornered in Ann Arbor

Eyewitness Account

By Oliver Stephens
WV Reporter

I got to the Federal Building at about 12:20. There were 10 or 12 Nazis there, most of them dressed in black Nazi uniforms, two or three of them in combat fatigues; they were wearing riot shields, helmets, with some placards which said "Reds Get Out of Central America" and "America Awake—Stop Communism." One had a large three-foot black billy club, and another was standing with his picket sign back over his shoulder like he was ready to hit anyone that came within a few feet of him.

The Nazis had a bullhorn, and the man with the scar on the side of his face was prancing up and down trying to talk about El Salvador. The crowd began to grow in a very short period of time, chanting "Nazis Eat Shit." The crowd as it grew began to move closer and closer up the steps towards the

Nazis. There were a number of shouting matches. By the time there were about 500 people or so in the crowd, they were face to face on the top of the steps.

A few minutes later the crowd stepped forward and the Nazis retreated into the alcove at the front doors of the Federal Building which were locked. They were trapped there. The crowd stopped a few feet away and for the next several minutes pelted them with hunks of ice, and just about anything else anyone had that was throwable. A lot of it landed. Obviously, the fascists were scared to death and were being hurt.

The Nazis tried to break the glass on the doors of the Federal Building so that they could get inside and run away. They couldn't do it. The crowd eventually reached about 1,000, covering the entire street area.

At about 12:30, four riot-clad police began to walk up single-file through the center of the crowd. Just as they were a few feet away from where the Nazis were, the Nazis, seeing the cops, charged the crowd, swinging their billy

club and couple of sticks. They got some stuff back. The cops quickly broke it up and the crowd stepped back. About two or three minutes later, 8 or 9 more cops showed up and they formed themselves into a semi-circle about 15 feet in front of the Nazis.

This didn't stop the continual bombardment of the fascists with just about anything that could be thrown. Marshals from this "Affirmation of Life" or whatever it was called rally, were up in the front trying to calm people down. At one point they began to form a corridor so that the Nazis could get out along the side of the building. The cops who had grown to about 50 at this point, shooed them out of the way and formed their own corridor. The Nazis then came behind them. They turned right down the block and a good section of the crowd followed them. The other half of the crowd went down to the parallel street to come up from the other side.

The cops then turned the Nazis into an open parking lot and they were cut off on both ends of the parking lot. The

crowd had split—there were about 500 on either side, and at the far end of the parking lot these Nazis were cowering literally as they were continually pelted with all sorts of materials.

At several points, one or two cops would swing out at someone who had thrown something, but no cops stepped out of line to go after them. At each point the cops were out-flanked on both left and right sides from a variety of angles by sections of the crowd and were continually retreating.

So the Nazis are huddled in the corner pissing in their pants. At 12:40 or so, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department bus drives down the street. On the other side is a parking arcade that is still under construction with a fence. There are at least 300 people on the side of the parking arcade. As the bus pulled in and the Nazis ran to get into the bus under a police shield, the bus was pelted by rather hefty bricks, rocks, and the usual kinds of things lying around the construction site. I am told that every window on the bus was broken by stuff being thrown.

Ann Arbor...

(continued from page 9)

labor officials played key roles in securing an impressive list of union endorsements for the rally. Keith Phelps, business manager of Laborers Union Local 1165 in Grand Rapids, was an early supporter of the campaign, and helped bring in his fellow business manager, Roy Greer of Ann Arbor's Local 959, who lined up the endorsement of the local Building Trades Council. Greer broke his leg pursuing the fascists and was hospitalized, but he said in a message to the March 27 Anti-Imperialist Contingent rally in Washington, "If I had to I would gladly do it again." Alphonso Wells, an executive board member of UAW Local 1776 (GM Willow Run), helped bring his local's official endorsement to the campaign. The impressive endorsers list was signed up in the face of active opposition from local Central Labor Council head Fred Veigel, who sent a red-baiting bulletin to 40 affiliated unions.

By the time of the Committee's March 18 press conference it was clear the city's workers, students, blacks, Jews and other minorities would not let the Nazis march. The press conference was a key event in the campaign, combating media violence-baiting and showing the broad union support for the Committee. As long-time Ann Arbor activist, Phil Carroll, whose union local, AFSCME 2733, endorsed the Committee, told reporters: "My personal attitude and that of many activists and union members in this city as well as county is that we won't tolerate the presence of Nazis in our community." Josephus



Wood/Ann Arbor News

Armed black security guard stops Nazis from escaping into Federal Building.

King, president of Detroit AFSCME Local 23, declared: "My local voted overwhelmingly to support this." Al Wells stated: "I believe I can speak for the majority of the membership of my local that we are against such action as the Nazi Party. We are willing to join a group protesting their belief and actions." Support continued to mushroom. Officials of two CWA locals endorsed and, on Friday, Local 1733 of the Fire Fighters. Even the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti NAARPR and Oberlin DSOC endorsed.

Centrists Try Sabotage

The Committee was faced throughout with an underhanded campaign of

slander and sabotage from a crew of centrist Ann Arbor politicians called the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) who, together with the Detroit Revolutionary Socialist League (RSL), devoted most of their energies to undermining the ultimately successful efforts of the Spartacist League and many others to stop the Nazis (see story, page 11).

The RWL and RSL formed the core of an outfit called the "Coalition Against the Nazis" which tried in vain to bridge the political gap between the mayor's "affirmation of human dignity" diversion and the Committee to Stop the Nazis plan for a mass labor/minority/student mobilization. They rejected a Committee to Stop the Nazis motion put forward at their first "Coalition" meeting for a "broad united-front demonstration to drive the Nazis out" on the grounds that the "Stop the Nazis" slogan was "divisive" and would "alienate" people. Their watchword was "protest the Nazis," halfway between "Stop the Nazis" and the mayor's line of "ignore the Nazis."

This capitulation to the liberals was followed by the RSL/RWL's repetition of the liberals' "violence" slanders against the Spartacist League. At a March 8 meeting of the Graduate Employees Organization, RWLer Joe Graves asserted that the SL was out to "kill the Nazis" and an anarchist in their Coalition tried to drag an SL supporter from the meeting room. When a local radio talk show moderator libeled the SL as having connections with the CIA, a Coalition member phoned up to

denounce the SL as "disrupters."

They couldn't exactly build the mayor's rally and they certainly weren't going to build one along the lines of the SL-initiated Committee, so they were stuck, politically paralyzed. The RWL counted themselves, the RSL and an endorsers list made up mainly of their several Ann Arbor front groups. Their first Coalition leaflet didn't even have a phone number on it!

The Coalition's jealous frenzy mounted as they saw the support for the March 20 action grow. So they started to spread stories that the Committee's endorsers list was a fraud. On March 16, Committee representatives came to a Coalition steering committee meeting and threw the slanderers into consternation by simply reading the Committee's impressive list of labor backers. The centrist saboteurs were buried under an avalanche of union support for the anti-Nazi action.

The Committee to Stop the Nazis organized and out-mobilized the mayor's liberal rally and in the process simply swamped the RSL/RWL's do-nothing Coalition. The RWL was driven particularly crazy by the fact that this was happening to them on their guru Peter Sollenberger's home turf. And it was his nemesis the Spartacist League that was doing it.

"I Would Gladly Do It Again!"

March 26, 1982

Dear Mr. Hicks:

I am writing in regards to the demonstration march held in Ann Arbor Michigan on March 20, 1982.

I feel the injury that I received, the hospitalization, and surgery was not in vain, because, as an American citizen this was my duty to express the way I feel about the Nazi march!

I am a black man, but I know some of the history of the Nazis, first the destroying of the religious people, and others, the Jews, and the union people. Here in America I will applaud all sisters and brothers that stand up against them. In closing, if I had to, I would gladly do it again!

Yours truly,

Roy Greer
Business Manager,
Laborers' International Union 959

Labor Endorsers for "Stop the Nazis" Mobilization

AFSCME Local 2733

Phil Carroll, member, AFSCME Local 2733
Fred Chase, President, CWA Local 4011
Louis Gates, former president, Frame Plant, UAW Local 600, Detroit

Roy Greer, Business Manager, Laborers International Union Local 959

House Officers Association Executive Board, University of Michigan Hospital
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1733

Willie Jenkins, Recording Secretary, Laborers International Union Local 334
Jackie Jordan, Executive Board, CWA Local 4050

Josephus King, President, AFSCME Local 23

David Moore, UAW International Representative; Participant in 1932 Ford Hunger March (retired)

Owight Newman, President, AFSCME Local 1583

Ooug Packer, Vice President, SEIU Local 31M
Keith Phelps, Business Manager, Laborers International Union Local 1165

Armando Pizana, District Committeeman, UAW Local 600, Detroit

Rouge Millant Caucus, UAW Local 600
Jimmie Terrell, Committeeman, UAW Local 900 (retired)

Gene Tolot, Michigan Building Trades Council

Transportation Employees Union, Local 171 of Transport Workers Union

UAW Local 735, Ypsilanti
UAW Local 1776, Willow Run

Washtenaw County Local Building Trades, AFL-CIO, Board of Directors

Organizational affiliation listed for purposes of identification only.

When presented with a proposal to build a real united front, these small-time centrists, for whom The United Front is practically a religion, refused. They let their sectarian hatred for the SL outweigh all other considerations—including the need to build the biggest and most effective response to a Nazi provocation in their own home town.

They had ignored the labor movement for the radical sandbox in Ann Arbor, and having been bypassed by the Stop the Nazis mobilization, they turned from their usual anti-Spartacist slander to outright provocation. They showed up at the March 20 rally with their own competing and equally loud sound system to try to drown out the labor-backed rally, an attempt that was neatly scotched (see "RSL/RWL Sabotage Spiked").

Stop the Nazis in Detroit

Two thousand anti-Nazi protesters in Ann Arbor gave the "SS Action Group" a lesson it will never forget. But junior führer Ted Dunn (aka "Mark Heydrich") says his gang of genocidal psychopaths plans to hold a rally to "free Rudolf Hess," convicted Nazi war criminal, in Detroit on May 9! For these twisted race terrorists, March 20 was a big defeat. They were frightened half to death and only escaped with police protection. Dunn clearly thinks his demoralized clot of teenage storm troopers needs to stage a "successful" racist provocation before it falls apart.

Let's keep the Nazis on the run! Veteran UAW militant Al Wells captured the spirit of many other local endorsers when he told the crowd at the March 20 rally:

"These type of people have no place in Michigan.... They can't run into their little headquarters and hide, because we're going to follow them to their headquarters—we're going to run them out of there! We can clean up this evil. You know these people are like snakes, rattlesnakes—they're ready to bite anyplace. Let's stop their biting before it gets started."

Detroit's workers may be the targets of mass layoffs and plant closings and the victims of sellout misleaders, but they're not about to let the Nazi terrorists take advantage of depression conditions to grow into a full-blown fascist movement.

On 10 November 1979 the Ku Klux Klan tried to ride in the Motor City. This attempt to "celebrate" the massacre of anti-Klan and leftist activists in Greensboro, North Carolina was shut down by a mass mobilization of Detroit blacks and unionists initiated by the SL and labor militants. Now the Nazis say they want to march in the same place. Working the fascist fringe of Reagan's anti-Soviet war drive, these scum think Detroit, a city full of blacks and unionists, ought to be turned into one big Auschwitz. What is needed in Detroit are massive labor and black mobilizations to shut down the "SS Action Group" punks once and for all. All out to stop the Nazis in Detroit on May 9! ■

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Ann Arbor Anti-Nazi Mobilization

RSL/RWL Sabotage Spiked

On March 20 a Nazi provocation was stopped cold in Ann Arbor. A demonstration of 2,000 workers, students and leftists organized by the Committee to Stop the Nazis, initiated by the Spartacist League (SL), massed at the Nazis' announced rallying point and drove the fascist scum from the streets.

Among the anti-Nazi demonstrators were several dozen supporters of two small state-capitalist groupings, the Revolutionary Socialist League (RSL) and its habitual bedfellow, Peter Sollenberger's Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), masquerading with their front groups as a separate "Coalition Against the Nazis." Their "Coalition" was a parasitic venture created after it was clear that the SL-initiated Committee was gaining broad-based support for its call to "Stop the Nazis" in the Ann Arbor community and among Michigan

Our Proposal the RSL/RWL Rejected

19 March 1982

P.O. Box 8364

Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Coalition Against the Nazis

Dear brothers and sisters:

We regret that our efforts to have one instead of two separate rallies to stop the Nazis at Ann Arbor City Hall March 20 appear to have failed. We remain open to bringing together all the forces that want to stop the Nazis into one powerful mobilization.

In any case, in the interest of the most effective effort possible on March 20, we offer your Coalition the opportunity to choose two representatives to speak from the platform of the Committee to Stop the Nazis. We note that the expected large number of very important trade union endorsers for this united front mobilization necessarily will limit the total number of speakers and the time available to each one.

Fraternally,
Mark Kelty
for the Committee to Stop the Nazis
on March 20

trade-union spokesmen. The "Coalition" fought against the slogan "Stop the Nazis," including by violence-baiting the Committee. They counterposed a deliberately watered-down line of "protesting the Nazis" in an effort to split away some of the Committee's support and to undermine the organizing efforts. Failing this, they announced their own demonstration for the same place and time.

Everyone—the dozens of Committee endorsers, the press, the Ann Arbor students—recognized that the overwhelming majority of the anti-Nazi militants who came out March 20 had been mobilized by the work of the Committee to Stop the Nazis. Distributing 65,000 leaflets and posters throughout Ann Arbor and in other Michigan communities and factories, combating the campaign of violence-baiting mounted by the media, contacting unionists and minority spokesmen for endorsements (which eventually included two UAW locals, an AFSCME local, the Washtenaw County Building Trades board of directors and numerous individual union spokesmen in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and elsewhere), the Committee built a massive demonstration. By contrast, the RSL/RWL "Coalition" hardly even went through the motions. For example, one *Michigan Daily* reporter told us she had tried for two weeks to contact the "Coalition"

but was never able to reach them.

While polemicizing sharply against the RSL/RWL's liberal "protest" line which tried to mimic the Committee's call while blunting its militant thrust, the Committee to Stop the Nazis repeatedly undertook to bring the RSL/RWL forces into a united action against the fascists. We insisted, given the RSL's conduct at a previous anti-fascist demonstration in Detroit and their general reputation for substitutionism and praise of lumpen violence, that the RSL—while of course exercising their full democratic rights of expression—would not be permitted to turn the anti-Nazi mobilization into a cops-vs.-leftists brawl in which the leftists always lose and accordingly the fascists emerge unscathed. The "Coalition" amidst a string of obscenities rejected this offer as "suppression." Right up to the time of the demonstration, the Committee to Stop the Nazis tried to draw the "Coalition" into a united effort, including offering them speakers at the rally (see accompanying letter, dated 19 March). Instead, the "Coalition" turned up on March 20 at the rally site with its own sound system.

In accordance with the laws of the material universe, which dictate that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, something had to give. The RSL/RWL put the anti-Nazi mobilization into an impossible situation. We chose not to turn off our own sound system.

Frustrated at being unable either to sabotage the March 20 action or to take it over by drowning out those who had organized it, the two sectlets are now hysterical on the subject. They issued a public "appeal" (see box below). The RSL distributed a subsequent leaflet, "Repudiate SL Thuggery" at the El Salvador protest in Washington, D.C. on March 27, while the Sollenbergerites devoted a lengthy section of their El Salvador leaflet to the battle of the sound system. These leaflets were distributed in Washington as the RSL/RWL joined the popular-frontist "official" march, whose leaders used a massive cordon of police to exclude the SL-initiated Anti-Imperialist Contingent. RSLers and RWLers were handing them out while the anti-imperialists were being surrounded and sealed off by mounted cops, SWAT teams and other defenders of "democracy" against "SL thuggery."

The RWL leaflet lines up squarely with Teddy Kennedy's rad-lib friends against their main enemy: "Even worse [than CISPES and PAM/YAWF] are

the fake 'left' tactics of the sectarian Spartacist League (SL) and its pitiful 'anti-imperialist contingent.'" The more macho RSL leaflet chimes in with Marcy-style slander and threats: "...we will henceforth consider the SL an organization of agent-provocateurs and will deal with it accordingly." In fact, the RSL had such confidence in the SL's consistent commitment to workers democracy that they turned up at the Anti-Imperialist Contingent rally and gave out this leaflet to the participants.

Meanwhile back in Michigan, an unsigned statement distributed at Ford's River Rouge plant in Dearborn actually makes a racial appeal, inciting blacks against "white goons from the SL." And Sollenberger's pals in the United Front Caucus there are openly violence-baiting UAW militants supported by the SL, Charles DuBois (who incidentally is black) and Frank Hicks. In classic red-baiting style the 24 March *Caucus Newsletter* declares: "We urge all unionists and members of Local 600 to be on the lookout for the violent acts organized by the political gangsters Hicks and DuBois."

Something important happened in Ann Arbor on March 20, but the Shachtmanite sectlets couldn't care less. The militant crowd mobilized by the Committee to Stop the Nazis turned out at City Hall in such numbers that the Nazis scouted the site of their intended provocation and went instead to the Federal Building. Upon hearing this, the anti-fascist demonstrators surged to the Federal Building. The cops were caught off guard. For a few minutes, the Nazis were confronted by a militant but disorganized mass, with the organized left groups following along behind. The RSL in particular jumped off faster than we did. But both groups were too slow to get there before the cops had moved in to freeze the situation. The Nazis were pelted with rotten vegetables and signs, but were hustled off out of town by the cops before they could get the treatment they deserved. Too bad; if they had, they wouldn't now be filing an application for a Nazi march in Detroit on May 9.

The RSL/RWL cares about none of this, of course. Displaying a touching petty-bourgeois attitude toward property, the parasites care only that we did not allow them to disrupt an important anti-Nazi action. Their complaints are imbued with the consummately petty spirit of the shopkeepers of 19th century France where, as depicted in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, a starving worker could be sentenced to ten years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread. ■

[by RSL and RWL-led Coalition]

"STATEMENT ON SPARTACIST LEAGUE THUG ATTACK"

On Saturday, March 20, 1982, members and supporters of the Spartacist League/Spartacist Youth League physically attacked the defense team and sound system of the Coalition Against the Nazis. The SL/SYL attack took place at the Ann Arbor (Mich.) City Hall, while the Coalition was several blocks away, counter-demonstrating against the Nazis. This attack was completely unprovoked. It was part of a conscious policy on the part of the SL/SYL, who attacked the Coalition's sound system at least four different times that day. The SL/SYL thugs knocked down defense team people, kicked in speakers and broke up other equipment. This thuggery is totally unacceptable in the workers' and progressive movement. It is doing the work of the cops and the Nazis.

The SL/SYL's attack was part of

its plan to dominate and claim all credit for the Ann Arbor anti-Nazi organizing. Prior to March 20, the SL tried to split, sabotage and disrupt the Coalition Against the Nazis. However, physical attacks on an anti-racist, anti-fascist demonstration represent a new stage of degeneration for the SL/SYL. Previously, their activities, while often obnoxious and sectarian, had at least somewhat the character of fighting politically for their point of view. Physical assaults on anti-fascist rallies is a different matter entirely. We demand that the SL/SYL: 1) publicly repudiate this attack and apologize for it; 2) discipline its leaders and members who planned and carried it out; and 3) pay for the damages. We warn the entire workers' and progressive movement about the danger that the SL/SYL represents.

WORKERS VANGUARD



Need for leadership on the spot: The crucial moment passes.

Stubbs/Ann Arbor News



WV Photo

Victory for SL-Organized Mobilization

2,000 Run Nazis Out of Ann Arbor!

ANN ARBOR—In an important victory here, a crowd of 2,000 ran the Nazis out of town on March 20. The Spartacist League-initiated Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20 organized a militant mobilization with broad support, which did exactly what its name promised and sent the 15 little Hitler-lovers with their swastikas and dreams of death camps running like rats.

The Nazis said they would come to Ann Arbor to set up their race-terror operations right in the midst of the people they hate: blacks, Jews, socialists, gays and, most important, labor. The Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20 said "No," and put out an urgent call to action: "All enemies of fascism must gather in a massive demonstration at the same time and place where the Nazis want to march." The Committee organized anti-Nazi militants from all over the area with impressive labor support. Speaking to the gathering crowd for the Committee to Stop the Nazis, Frank Hicks, a militant from Detroit's River Rouge, pointed to the importance of stopping the Nazis for the trade-union movement: "Labor has turned out in force to build this rally. It's the most important thing that's happened for the labor movement in this area in years.... No goose-stepping in Ann Arbor on March 20... we know that if we don't stop them here, we'll face them on the picket lines in the future."

Perhaps the Nazis thought that only a few leftists would show up as had been the case at other times and places. Or that they could wave their swastikas in

the faces of some liberal vigil. But when the Nazis drove past the Ann Arbor City Hall on March 20 where they had vowed to stage their provocation they saw that many hundreds had gathered to stop them cold. On the spot where they had hoped to raise their twisted cross for an American Hitler to "crush Communism," a fifteen-foot banner ripped in the wind: "Labor/Minorities/Students: Stop the Nazis/Klan—Committee to Stop the Nazis March 20." Other banners and signs included slogans such as: "No Greensboros in Ann Arbor!" and "Don't Ignore Nazis, Stop Them!" The little gang of Nazis took a look at the many hundreds of militants organized by the Committee, sized up the tenor of the crowd and beat it for another area. It is an instructive irony that the Nazis chose to go to the Federal Building, where the mayor's "peaceful rally for human dignity" was planned. Billed as "a community alternative to violent confrontation," the mayor's rally was intended as a *diversion* to channel the just outrage against the Nazis into an empty gesture of liberal protest. But the mayor's rally was a total flop. Very few people thought the Nazis should be ignored, while a mass mobilization came out to *stop* them.

The Nazis could run but they couldn't hide. When word spread through the crowd that the Nazis were at the Federal Building, first hundreds, then a thousand, then all 2,000 angry demonstrators took off to give the fascists what they deserved. The crowd kept the Hitler-lovers pinned against the Federal Building for ten minutes, where they

were humiliated and pelted with ice, vegetables, anything that could be thrown until in panic the Nazis desperately tried to break the door and escape the crowd's wrath. A door was shattered, but a single black armed guard stood his ground and stopped the Nazis from fleeing inside. Then the police arrived, forming a protective cordon around the Nazis. The protesters continued to press against the cowed storm troopers until the cops loaded them into

the police bus, which drove off in a shower of rocks, shattering glass and shouts of "We won! We won!"

The confrontation itself was a spontaneous outpouring of mass rage against the Nazis with all of the left organizations present tailing behind. Some SLers, fearing that the crowd was being hustled out by some adventurers for a bash with the cops, at first urged them not to go. It's too bad that the Spartacist

continued on page 9



WV Photo

Committee spokesman, Al Nelson: "Everyone here has a sense of victory."