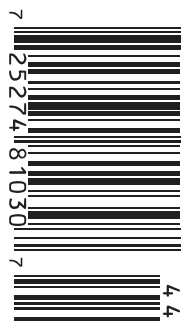


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Join the Labor Black Leagues!

The first Labor Black Leagues were formed as a result of the Spartacist League-initiated, 5,000-strong labor/black mobilization that stopped the Ku Klux Klan from marching in Washington, D.C. in November 1982. We stand for mobilizing the masses of minority and working people in militant integrated struggle against

the brutal system of racist oppression that is capitalist America. Initiated by and fraternally allied with the Spartacist League, a multiracial revolutionary Marxist organization, the Labor Black Leagues are part of the revolutionary movement of the workers and oppressed against the bosses and for socialism.

If You Stand For—

1 Full rights for black people and for everyone else in jobs, housing and schools! Defeat the racist assault on affirmative action! For union-run minority job recruitment and training programs! For union hiring halls! Open up the universities to all—for open admissions, free tuition and a full living stipend for all students. Free, quality, integrated public education for all!

2 A fighting labor movement—picket lines mean don't cross! Defeat police scabberding and strikebreaking through mass pickets and union defense guards! For sit-down strikes against mass layoffs! Fight union-busting, keep the capitalist courts out of the unions! Organize the unorganized, unionize the South! Jobs for all—for a shorter workweek at no loss in pay with full cost-of-living escalator clause! Cops and prison guards out of the unions!



TROTSKY

“Free Speech” Liberals Shield KKK Racist Terrorists

In their unsuccessful effort to thwart the independent mobilization of NYC labor and minorities to stop the KKK, the New York Civil Liberties Union and liberal Democrats like Al Sharpton rushed to shield the Klan killers under the cover of “free speech.” Their predecessors tried the same tack in 1939 in opposing a 50,000-strong workers mobilization called by the then-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party to stop a Nazi rally

in Madison Square Garden, while Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia unleashed nearly 1,800 cops against the workers. In an article at the time, the Trotskyists exposed the “free speech” line of the bourgeois liberals as a cover for furthering attacks on the working class and disarming the proletariat in the face of fascist terror.

Mayor LaGuardia kept reiterating emphatically that his attachment to Democracy compelled him to grant the Fascists the right to hold their meeting and provide them with extraordinary police protection.

The American Civil Liberties Union rushed into print to insist that the right of free speech be extended to the Hitlerites.

One of the numerous committees of the Jewish bourgeoisie, anxious to demonstrate that it loves fairness above all else, did likewise....

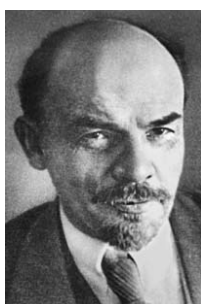
Before going further into the consideration of the question of “free speech for Fascists,” it is interesting and important to record the fact that all the above-mentioned who showed such touching concern for the “democratic rights” of the Nazis, are entirely unconcerned with the brutal police suppression of the picketing rights of the workers who assembled outside the Garden....

What is most decisive—this is the point which leads us directly to a solution of the problem that seems to agitate so many people—is the fact that in Italy, in Germany, in Austria, in Czechoslovakia, in Spain, the Democrats were so concerned with preserving the “rights” of the Fascists that they concentrated all their attacks and repressive measures upon those workers and those labor organizations which sought to conduct a militant struggle against the Fascists and for the preservation and extension of their truly democratic rights and institutions.

It is when the bourgeois “democrats” like Giolitti in Italy and Bruening in Germany, had done all in their power to smash the most progressive and active sections of the working class—as LaGuardia and his police tried to do on a smaller scale in New York last week—that the Fascists concluded successfully their march to totalitarian power. Whoever forgets this important lesson from abroad, is a fool. Whoever tries to keep others ignorant of this lesson, is a rogue....

The self-preservation of the working class demands that it cut through all abstract chatter and smash the Fascist gangs by decisive and relentless action.

—“Should Fascists Be Allowed the Right of Free Speech?”
(*Socialist Appeal*, 3 March 1939)



LENIN



WV Photo

3 Fight for women's rights! Defend abortion clinics! Free abortion on demand; free, quality 24-hour childcare! Equal pay for equal work! For free, quality health care for all!

4 Full citizenship rights for all immigrants; everyone who made it into this country has the right to stay and live decently! Stop deportations! No to racist “English only” laws! Down with anti-Hispanic, anti-Semitic, anti-Arab and anti-Asian bigotry!

5 Down with anti-gay laws! Full democratic rights for homosexuals! Government out of the bedroom!

6 Mass labor/black/Hispanic mobilizations drawing on the power of the unions against the racist terrorists. Stop the Nazis! Stop the KKK!

7 Abolish the racist death penalty! Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Free all victims of racist capitalist repression! No faith in the capitalist courts! No to gun control! Defend victims of cop terror and racist police frame-up! For class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defense; support the work of the Partisan Defense Committee!

8 Unconditional opposition to every attempt to abolish welfare! Down with slave-labor, union-busting “workfare” schemes! Fight any and every attempt of the government to take away or cut back even more social programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public health and aid to education and housing! For a massive program of public works—high-quality integrated housing, schools, libraries, hospitals for the working people and the poor!

9 Down with the chauvinist poison of protectionism! For international working-class solidarity! Support revolutionary struggles of working people abroad! Defend Cuba, Vietnam, China and North Korea against capitalist restoration and imperialist attack! For labor action against U.S. imperialist war moves and military adventures! For the right of independence for Puerto Rico! U.S. troops out of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean!

10 Down with the Democrats and Republicans! For a revolutionary workers party that champions the cause of all the oppressed! Finish the Civil War! Those who labor must rule! For a workers government to take industry away from its racist, incompetent and corrupt owners! Rebuild America on a socialist planned economy!

—Join the Labor Black Leagues!

Membership pledge is
\$3/year unemployed; \$10/year employed.
For more information, write:

CHICAGO (312) 454-4930

Labor Black Struggle League
Box 6938, Chicago, IL 60680

NEW YORK (212) 267-1025

Labor Black League for Social Defense
Box 2502, Church St. Station
New York, NY 10008

OAKLAND (510) 839-0851

Labor Black League for Social Defense
Box 29497
Oakland, CA 94604

Spartacus Youth Club Class Series

BAY AREA

Fight for New October Revolutions!

Thursdays, 7 p.m.
November 4: **How the Soviet Workers State Was Strangled**
UC Berkeley, Room 222 Wheeler
Information and readings: (510) 839-0851

BOSTON

The Fight for Communism and the Class Struggle Today

Saturdays, 2 p.m.
November 6: **The State**
Mayer Campus Center, Zamparelli
Room 112, Tufts University
Information and readings: (617) 666-9453

CHICAGO

Revolutionary Marxism: The Fight for a Socialist Future

Saturdays, 3 p.m.
November 6: **Black Oppression and Revolutionary Integrationism**
328 S. Jefferson St., Suite 904
Information and readings: (312) 454-4930

LOS ANGELES

Introduction to Revolutionary Marxism

Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.
November 6: **The Marxist Understanding of the Capitalist State**
3808 Beverly Blvd. (at Vermont) Rm. 215
Information and readings: (213) 380-8239

NEW YORK CITY

Revolutionary Marxism: The Fight for a Socialist Future

Alternate Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
November 2: **Trotskyism vs. Stalinism: The Revolution Betrayed**, Rm. 309
November 16: **For Black Liberation Through Socialist Revolution!**, Rm. 307
Student Events Center, NYU
5 Washington Pl. (at Mercer St.)
Information and readings: (212) 267-1025
or nysl@compuserve.com

TORONTO

Smash the Capitalist System of Racism and War!

Alternate Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
November 3: **Marxism and the National Question**
U of T, International Student Centre
33 St. George St. (north of College St.)
For room and information: (416) 593-4138

VANCOUVER

Marxism and World Revolution

Alternate Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
November 9: **Defend China, Vietnam, North Korea, Cuba: For Workers Political Revolution to Stop Capitalist Counterrevolution!**
University of British Columbia
Room 212, Student Union Building
Information and readings: (604) 687-0353

WORKERS VANGUARD

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



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The Spartacist League is the U.S. Section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist).

Workers Vanguard (ISSN 0276-0746) published biweekly, except skipping three alternate issues in June, July and August (beginning with omitting the second issue in June) and with a 3-week interval in December, by the Spartacist Publishing Co., 299 Broadway, Suite 318, New York, NY 10007. Telephone: (212) 732-7862 (Editorial), (212) 732-7861 (Business). Address all correspondence to: Box 1377, GPO, New York, NY 10116. E-mail address: vanguard@tiac.net. Domestic subscriptions: \$10.00/22 issues. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Workers Vanguard*, Box 1377, GPO, New York, NY 10116.

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

The closing date for news in this issue is October 26.

No. 722

29 October 1999

KKK Out...

(continued from page 1)

Cornell and many others, endorsed and helped build the mobilization to stop the Klan. Many students organized contingents from their campuses, which marched into the rally in groups. As the speaker for the Spartacus Youth Club—which helped build campus support—read off the names of the colleges and college groups, students cheered loudly.

For hundreds of students, this was not only their first taste of mass political action, but their first sense of the social power of labor organized in racially integrated unions. Speakers from the student contingents spoke with fire and passion, as exemplified by a young woman from City College who declared: “We are here to tell the KKK that you are cowards and if you would like to come to Washington Heights, if you would like to come to Harlem, and if you’d like to come to Brooklyn, we are waiting! Harlem is waiting, KKK!”

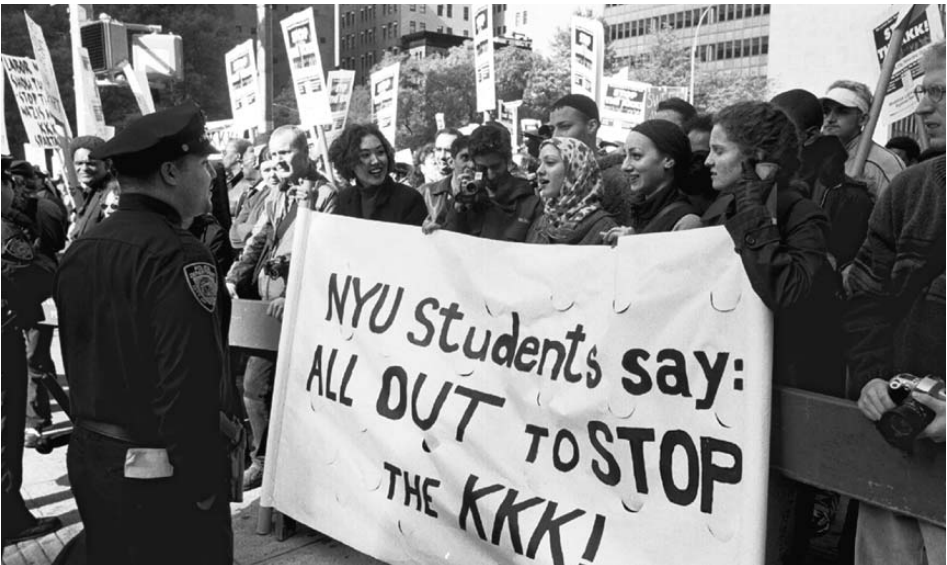
A Workers Party in Action

What was seen in the streets of New York City on October 23 was exactly what the PDC had said was necessary to stop the Klan: a powerful mobilization of the social power of the multiracial working class, standing at the head of blacks, Hispanics, Asians, immigrants, Jews, Catholics, gays, youth and all those the Klan has lined up in its sights. Our purpose was to give an organized and militant expression

mini-police state. It demonstrated an alternative to the Democratic Party politicians, their black front men and labor flunkies, who worked as feverishly to try to demobilize any independent outpouring of the working people and all the enemies of Klan terror as they had done to contain the protests over the Diallo killing within the confines of electoral pressure politics.

Many of the thousands who mobilized behind the anti-Klan rally were looking for the answer not only to stopping Klan terror but to fighting back against the entire system of racist capitalist exploitation and oppression. Demonstrators listened raptly to all the speeches from the platform. Many shouted, “That’s right, that’s right” when PDC labor coordinator Gene Herson denounced both the Democratic and Republican parties as enemies of labor and the oppressed. Calls for the working people to build their own class party were met with applause.

What was seen on the streets of New York City on October 23 was a microcosm of a workers party in action, i.e., the working class mobilized in its own interests, acting independently of the government and parties of the capitalist class. The PDC—a class-struggle legal and social defense organization whose purpose is in accordance with the views of the Marxist Spartacist League—initiated the call which brought to bear the social power of labor and its strong, militant component of black workers in defense of all the oppressed. That same power, those same forces which stopped the Klan from riding can organize the unorganized and



Large contingent of NYU students joined other campus contingents on October 23, many getting their first taste of mass political action and of social power of organized working class.



Giuliani mobilized over a thousand cops to protect KKK. NYPD thugs attacked group of anti-Klan protesters as KKK appeared.

to the massive outrage against the Klan. It was a united-front mobilization, which allowed for the expression of many diverse political viewpoints by all those who shared a commitment to the urgent necessity to *stop the KKK*. But it tapped into far more than that, intersecting the accumulated anger among the city’s working people, particularly blacks and Hispanics, who are fed up with being pushed around for years in the one-sided war against workers and the poor.

It galvanized the anger against the marauding, racist cops which exploded earlier this year over the killing of black African Amadou Diallo by the NYPD. It gave expression to the hundreds of thousands in this city—from unionized workers to immigrant cab drivers and hot dog vendors, CUNY students, artists, AIDS victims—who have had it with Giuliani’s

unemployed, can mobilize in defense of the masses in the ghettos and barrios, can crack the “open shop” South—itsself a product of KKK anti-union terror.

The successful labor/black mobilization brought to life the connection between labor’s fight and the fight for black freedom. Black oppression is the cornerstone of racist American capitalism. There is no road to eliminating the special oppression of black people other than the working-class conquest of power, and there will be no proletarian revolution to end class exploitation unless the working class actively takes up the fight for black rights.

The working class has the numbers, the organization and the power to win all those things that the ruling class appropriates for itself—health care, education, decent housing, abortion rights. What is lacking is the kind of leadership necessary

to fight—a leadership of the unions that doesn’t bow down to the bosses’ laws, parties and state agencies, a workers party that doesn’t respect the property “rights” of the bourgeoisie. We need a workers party that fights for a workers government to rip the means of production from the capitalist class and institute a planned socialist economy that operates not for the profit of a few greedy exploiters but for the working people who produce the wealth of society. That is the kind of workers party that we communists of the Spartacist League are fighting to build.

The Political Battle to Stop the Klan

Just as the mobilization to stop the Klan in New York City on October 23 gave a real taste of the social forces and leadership required for socialist revolution in this country, it also starkly exposed the enemies and obstacles to organizing struggles of the working class in its own interests and in the interests of all those at the bottom of this society. These included the capitalist cops, courts and Giuliani city administration; the American Civil Liberties Union, which continued its revolting decades-long defense of “constitutional rights” for the fascist terrorists; the Democratic Party, whose calls for a “demonstration for tolerance” were aimed at trying to demobilize the working people and others who wanted to stop the Klan; Al Sharpton and the black establishment *Amsterdam News*, who grotesquely filed a court brief on behalf of the Klan; the International Socialist Organization (ISO), who leapt into the camp of Giuliani, the Democrats, Sharpton, the ACLU and the Klan *against* the PDC-initiated labor/black mobilization.

From the day that the Klan’s rally was publicly announced in a 13 October article in the *New York Post*, there was a contention of two counterposed class forces—those representing the interests of the capitalist ruling class and those representing the interests of the working class and its allies. The moment the PDC heard of the KKK’s plans, it applied for a permit to hold a demonstration at the same time and same place as the Klan’s announced rally site, 100 Centre Street. The call for a labor/black mobilization was issued immediately, and met with overwhelming support when it hit the streets. This mobi-

lization had an impact on city politics not seen in years. The issue captured the front pages of the tabloids, dominated talk shows and call-ins on black radio stations, reportedly split union executive boards and drove the Democratic Party establishment to distraction.

The Giuliani administration and NYPD responded by setting to work in an attempt to block this mobilization. Colluding with them was an unholy alliance ranging from the New York Civil Liberties Union’s Norman Siegel, lawyer for the KKK, to Democratic State Assemblyman Scott Stringer and black Democrat Al Sharpton. The KKK’s rally site was secretly moved a block away to 60 Centre Street, information that was not made public for days. As it became clear that thousands of New Yorkers were rallying behind the PDC’s call, as tens of thousands of leaflets were distributed over the weekend of October 16-17, this cabal moved into high gear.

Stringer, joined by Sharpton and other Democratic Party pols, called a press conference on October 19 to announce that he had applied for a permit for a “demonstration for tolerance” at 60 Centre Street, where the Klan would stage its rally. That evening it came out, as a PDC press release reported, that Stringer & Co. were “colluding with the Klan and the Giuliani administration to cut a deal to share a sound permit with the KKK at 60 Centre Street.” The following day, Sharpton filed his *amicus* brief on behalf of the Klan. *We* fought on behalf of the tens of thousands of New York’s working people who wanted to *stop* the KKK, waging an incessant battle in the courts for *their* rights to free speech and assembly.

On October 21, a federal district court gave the Klansmen everything they had asked for and the working people were told they were to be muzzled. The court approved the deal cooked up by Siegel, Stringer and the Klan to share a sound permit and gave the KKK the right to stage their race-hate provocation in hoods with masks. The judges denied a sound permit for the labor/black mobilization at 60 Centre Street. As PDC counsel Rachel Wolkenstein declared, “This deal is an attempt to guarantee that only the Klan will be heard and not their intended victims.” She added, “The denial of a sound

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Liberal and fake-socialist enemies of labor/black mobilization provided platform for KKK racist terrorists: NYCLU’s Norman Siegel at Klan rally, Democrats Al Sharpton and Scott Stringer, ISO speaker next to police banner at Democratic Party diversion.



KKK Out...

(continued from page 3)

permit to the anti-Klan rally is a provocation against the mobilization organizers’ ability to hold a militant, orderly mass demonstration. A rally without centrally located sound and leadership is like a car without a steering wheel.”

Even the right-wing *New York Post* (23 October) denounced the court’s decision that the anti-Klan mobilization could not use loudspeakers at the same time as the KKK on the grounds that that would “snuff out the free speech” of the Klan. Indeed, the court ruling was a graphic illustration of the race and class bias of the capitalist “justice” system—a free ride for Klan terror and no rights for their intended victims! This was punctuated by the fact that the courthouse was literally used as a shelter for the KKK when it staged its race-hate rally.

When the Klan’s permit to rally with masks was retracted in a federal appeals court on October 22, a disinformation campaign was set in motion aimed at convincing people there was no reason to come out the next day since the KKK would not be there. A PDC press release that evening declared: “Whatever reports are circulating that the KKK currently has no permit to stage its race-hate provocation, the working people of this city have no reason to trust the word of these racist terrorists or the Giuliani administration. The only way to guarantee that the Klan does not rear its head in New York tomorrow is if the streets are filled with its opponents.”

And, on October 23, there were many thousands of determined opponents of the Klan filling the area around Centre Street. Here was the answer to Sharpton’s defense of the Klan’s right to “free speech.” Many of those who came out had personal experience with the burning cross, the lynch rope, the shotguns through which the Klan “speaks.” Despite being separated by helmeted riot cops and police barricades at different locations, they had come out not to show “tolerance” for the KKK as preached by Stringer and the Democrats but in response to the PDC call to *stop the KKK*.

The ISO—Traitors Exposed

Except for some of the Democratic Party faithful, like Local 1199 president Dennis Rivera, and a token endorsement by the leadership of the Central Labor Council, Stringer, Sharpton et al.’s call for “tolerance” fell on deaf ears. The *only* organization to leap into Stringer’s camp with energy and purpose was the International Socialist Organization, which did its level best to give a cover to the Democratic Party—and the Klan—*against* the organized working class.

It Took Money to Drive the Klan Out of NYC

Working people, blacks, Hispanics, Asians, gays, Jews, Catholics and other minorities as well as immigrants, students and youth—all opponents of racist terror—won a stunning victory over the KKK nightriders in New York City. But that cost a lot of money. Over 175,000 leaflets—in English, Spanish and French—calling for “All Out to Stop the KKK on October 23!” were printed and distributed. We sent out press releases and printed thousands of posters, which are now treasured souvenirs for those who came out to stop the Klan. We still have big bills to pay for telephones, rally equipment rental and much more. If you or your organization have not yet made a contribution, show your support for stopping the KKK by sending a contribution now, payable to the Partisan Defense Committee, earmarked “Stop the KKK.” Send to: Box 99, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013.



WV Photo

Demonstrators purchased hundreds of pieces of SL literature laying out revolutionary program for workers power to root out racist terror once and for all.

The ISO endorsed a meeting called by a variety of lawyers and liberals to organize behind Stringer’s “demonstration for tolerance.” When representatives of the PDC intervened to call for uniting all those who wanted to stop the Klan on October 23, there were no takers. While Sharpton was outrageously defending the Klan’s “rights” in court, at the meeting the ISO enthused over what a good speaker Sharpton was and how many people he would draw to the Democratic Party diversion! As it turned out, Sharpton never

been stripped bare. The ISO stands exposed as the servants of capital against the interests of the working class, black people and all the oppressed.

While the rest of the left did not play so forward a role as the ISO in serving the interests of the Democratic Party, most remained silent in the face of the deadly Klan threat until Stringer and Sharpton started to call for a liberal diversion. The Communist Party endorsed the Stringer rally. Workers World Party (WWP) tried to have it both ways. Feigning some mock

WV Photo

KKK lyncher menaces Dallas abortion clinic. “Right to life” terrorist murdered Dr. Barnett Slepian.

Victoria Hellman



even showed up on October 23, doubtless not anxious to face the jeers of the thousands who had come out to stop the KKK. But the ISO was there with bells on.

While shamelessly enlisting with the Democrats, the ISO tried to cover its despicable role by issuing a little-distributed leaflet under the heading “Stop the Klan!” Since their main purpose was *opposed* to stopping the KKK, this was pure cynicism. On site on October 23, the ISO continued to try to deceive people who had mobilized in response to the PDC’s call by steering them into the site of the Democrats’ location, which was a police trap. When people discovered this deception, many who tried to leave found their way blocked by the cops.

Having been provided a temporary, if unwitting, audience by the ISO’s treachery, Democrats like Senator Charles Schumer and others tried to turn the event into an election rally. They were repeatedly booed by the angry protesters who had not come out for election speeches or messages of “tolerance” but to stop Klan terror. While the anti-Klan demonstrators understood the role of the cops in protecting these nightriding terrorists, the ISO speaker stood in front of the banner of the Latino Officers Association. This is not unusual for the ISO, which has a long history of viewing the cops as “workers” and upholding their “right” to organize. Will these social democrats whose British paper once headlined “Are All Coppers Really Bastards?” now ask, “Are all Klansmen really bastards?”

With the ISO acting as the donkeys for the Democratic Party in trying to demobilize the mass labor-centered protest to stop the Klan, whatever pretenses it had to the cause of “workers power” have

independence from the Democrats, they called for people to assemble at Stringer’s site, but somewhat later than the official starting time. Then, on October 23, WWP also had people at the PDC rally site, where they handed out placards that called to “stop the Klan” and for a “new trial” for black death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. When SYC comrades pointed out that this sowed illusions in the very same courts that had sentenced Jamal to death and had upheld the “right” to Klan terror, many of the people who had unwittingly taken WWP’s placards traded them in for PDC placards demanding *freedom* for Jamal.

In a very unusual move, the Stalin-lovers of Progressive Labor Party (PL), who smear “Trotskyites” as fascists, called on people to assemble at the site of the PDC mobilization, signing an endorsement form on the spot. Now a PL Internet statement crows how “thousands” were “led by PLP” and asserts, “It took the PLP to lead a breakaway march of hundreds of people who really wanted to confront the Klan.” In fact, what PL did was “lead” itself straight into a line of riot cops a short distance away. PL’s whole strategy of individual confrontations with the cops and the fascists is based on a rejection of the working class as a force for social struggle. Giuliani’s cops did arrest several anti-Klan protesters on October 23. We demand: Drop all the charges now!

The self-proclaimed redder-than-red communists of PL—who can’t tell the difference between a trade union and right-wing religious bigots like the Promise Keepers—are guided by absolutely *no* class criteria. Thus, they expressed no solidarity with the powerful Teamsters

union during its strike against the UPS bosses. Instead, they dismissed this struggle as a battle between two wings of the ruling class! With its utter contempt for the organized working class, PL’s cries of “Kick the bosses in the ass” and “Death to the Klan” are little more than the bleatings of grandstanding liberals.

Linking the Power of Labor to the Anger of the Ghetto

The clear intent of the liberal Democrats and their allies was to block any independent expression of the power of labor and *its* allies to stop the Klan on October 23. But they seriously miscalculated the outrage throughout this city against the Klan rally and failed miserably in their efforts. Throughout the building for this labor/black mobilization, the Democrats and their labor lackeys evidently realized they couldn’t even try the usual violence-baiting and redbaiting of the PDC which has been attempted against previous PDC-initiated anti-fascist mobilizations. That’s not because they had any less fear of or hostility to labor being mobilized behind a class-struggle program, but because they recognized they couldn’t openly come out against the labor/black mobilization to stop the Klan in a city where the overwhelming mass of the population is directly in the cross hairs of the racist terrorists.

Many unions told us that they couldn’t endorse the PDC mobilization because their leadership was split over the question. Nonetheless, a number that didn’t endorse asked for stacks of the PDC’s mobilizing leaflet to put in their union halls. Dennis Rivera, who runs a well-oiled machine in Local 1199, made no overt attempt to mobilize his membership behind Stringer’s “free speech” diversion. Likewise, the hidebound craft-union bureaucrats at the head of the Central Labor Council who endorsed Stringer’s “demonstration for tolerance” did not put out the word that trade unionists should stay away from the labor/black mobilization.

What was reflected here was the fear of the labor bureaucrats and black Democrats that by opposing the PDC’s anti-Klan mobilization they could potentially detonate the anger building at the base of the unions, the outrage in the ghettos and barrios. But that didn’t stop them from trying to head it off.

In defending their legal efforts on behalf of the Klan, the editors of the *Amsterdam News* grotesquely echoed the racists who compared the Klan with Khallid Muhammad. Condemning this equation of the victims of Klan terror with its perpetrators, PDC labor coordinator Gene Herson responded: “The purpose of this is to conceal the real enemy and deny the true nature of the KKK. Khallid Muhammad is an anti-Semitic demagogue, but that’s all he is. The Klan is a *terrorist action group* whose purpose is genocide.” Speaking at a PDC press conference on October 19, Jim Webb of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists added, “Khallid has never murdered, lynched, burned churches, synagogues and homes.”

In its call initiating this mobilization, the PDC noted that the Klan was making a big mistake by thinking it could ride in New York City, and October 23 proved that. The thousands who turned out that day sent a powerful message that the KKK had better not try it again. This mobilization was also a powerful response to the demagoguery of Muhammad and his former mentor, Louis Farrakhan, who seek to channel the anger of the ghetto into bigotry against Jewish, Arab and Asian shopkeepers in order that they can be the sole exploiters of the ghetto masses. This response was palpable in minority neighborhoods throughout the city.

A Korean shopkeeper in Harlem came out of his store to donate money and hand out leaflets to build for the anti-Klan mobilization. In Chinatown, a merchant took a stack of leaflets and taught PDC soapboxers how to say “stop the Klan” in Chinese, immediately drawing sympathetic crowds. At the mobilization itself, many black participants remarked

Stay of Execution Granted, Danger Remains

Mobilize Labor/Black Power to Free Mumia!

OCTOBER 26—As we go to press, it has just been announced that Mumia Abu-Jamal has won a stay of execution from a federal judge pending a decision on his habeas corpus petition. No one among Jamal's millions of defenders must be lulled by this news into thinking that Mumia is any less endangered by the police and government forces which have long waged a concerted campaign for his legal lynching.

We print below a speech by Paul Cooperstein of the Partisan Defense Committee at a victory party immediately following the October 23 anti-Klan demonstration.

We have another urgent fight on our hands—the fight to free death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. To win his freedom, we have to mobilize the same social forces that routed the Klan today, the multiracial unions which were the bedrock of this mobilization.

Ten days ago, Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge signed an order for Mumia to be executed on December 2. And despite Jamal's filing for *habeas corpus* in the federal courts, that warrant of execution has not been lifted. They are determined to kill Mumia. We must be more determined to win his freedom. The lynch rope of the KKK is just the other side of the legal lynchings of the capitalist state. In mobilizing against the KKK we must raise our voices to demand: Freedom now for Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the racist death penalty!

The capitalist state—made up of the cops, courts, prisons, corrections officers—is an instrument for the capitalist rulers to defend their massive profits, their class rule through vicious repression and terror against workers and minorities. The prisons today are flooded with young black and Hispanic men and women, mostly as a result of the racist “war on drugs.” With them

are those who have stood up for the rights of labor and blacks against this oppressive capitalist system—former Panthers like Mumia, coal miners like Jerry Dale Lowe, MOVE members. We fight for the freedom of the class-war prisoners—their fight is our fight!

At the core of this state terror machine is the racist death penalty. In this country, the death penalty is a direct legacy of slavery. It is part and parcel of the racist cop terror on the streets and the extralegal terror of the KKK. It is the lynch rope made legal. It is no accident that joining in the cops' drive for Mumia's death is the fascist National Association for the Advancement of White People. The crusade to kill Jamal is designed to sanctify this killing machine, which has already taken nearly 80 lives since January—the most in 45 years.

The Tom Ridges, the Giulianis, the Clintons—and those over there on Wall Street whom they serve—want to kill Mumia because he is a powerful spokesman for the poor and oppressed. In their eyes, he represents the spectre of black revolution. Why such concern? Because the cause of black freedom and the fight against the grinding exploitation of labor in this racist capitalist society are potential social dynamite if combined.

The PDC is a class-struggle legal and social defense organization. Guided by the principles of the early International Labor Defense, we stand unconditionally on the side of the working people and their allies in struggle against their exploiters and oppressors. We place *all* our faith in the power of the masses and *no faith whatever* in the justice of the courts.

There are some who build deadly illusions in the courts which have condemned Mumia to die, promoting the call for a new trial for Jamal. Among



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PDC banner on October 23. Mobilizing labor/black power to win Mumia's freedom is counterposed to reliance on Democrats, capitalist courts.

them are Al Sharpton, who also threw his weight behind the effort to make sure the Klan could rally for racist terror here today. Justice in the courts? The same courts that protected the Klan's rights while denying those who wanted to stop the KKK killers a sound permit? What the courts, Stringer, the New York Civil Liberties Union wanted was to prevent us—the masses of this city who are the Klan's intended victims—from taking the streets.

Can Mumia get a fair trial in the courts of the Dred Scott decision, which said that blacks had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, the courts which declared “separate but equal” segregation the law of the land?

Can Mumia get a fair trial in the courts that said it's irrelevant that the death penalty is racist, that said it is not unconstitutional to execute an innocent man?

Can Mumia get a fair trial in the courts that ordered the execution of the Haymarket martyrs, Sacco and Van-

zetti, the Rosenbergs—that let the racist cops who killed Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Stewart, Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo, Gidone Busch walk the streets to stalk their prey every day?

Can he get a fair trial in the courts that enforce the slave-labor Taylor Law? Hell no!

We say: Free Mumia! That means mobilizing now, centered on the power of the multiracial working class, the workers who run the trains, make the cars, drive the trucks, lay the pipe, move the garbage, create all the wealth in this society. The workers who, by withholding their labor, can shut this city, Philly and other cities down cold, choking off the lifeblood of this racist killing machine: capitalist profits.

To win the freedom of the class-war prisoners, to put an end to this racist killing machine of lynch ropes, gas chambers and lethal injections, means getting rid of the racist capitalist system once and for all—through workers socialist revolution. Free Mumia!

on the multiracial character of the turnout and echoed denunciations of anti-Semitism from the speaker's platform.

In contrast to the preaching of liberal “diversity”—like Jesse Jackson's “rainbow coalition” or David Dinkins' “beautiful mosaic”—which means acceptance of the racist status quo and Democratic Party ethnic politics, this was a powerful demonstration of *class unity* and unity of the oppressed behind the social power of the multiracial working class. One chant in particular resonated at the PDC mobilization: “Asian, Latin, black and white—Workers of the world, unite!” Everyone could see that proletarian power right before their eyes in this labor-centered anti-Klan mobilization.

The Fight for a Workers America

The Klan was born out of the bloody reaction in the South following the defeat of the slavocracy in the American Civil War. These were the hooded-and-robed agents of the former Confederacy, who

carried out a campaign of terror, intimidation, mutilation and murder aimed at strangling the political rights that were won by the freed slaves during Reconstruction. The KKK spearheaded the restoration of white supremacy in the form of the system of Jim Crow segregation that held sway for nearly a century. It heralded a resurgence, reaching several million strong in the 1920s, with the lynching of Jewish businessman Leo Frank in Georgia in 1915.

Today the Klan is the lowlife, terrorist bunch held in reserve by the American capitalist ruling class. This ruling class, a tiny minority which expropriates all the real wealth of this society, believes that everyone else has no rights which this rich, white man's government is bound to respect. This capitalist ruling class needs the homegrown Nazis of the KKK, to be deployed to crush the organizations of the working class when the masses can no longer be lulled by the lie that their interests are represented by capitalist “democracy.”

The political battle required to build the

labor/black mobilization which stopped the Klan from riding in NYC contains important lessons for all those who want to struggle against union-busting, racism, poverty, homelessness, war and all the other hideous expressions of a system rooted in exploitation and racial oppression. Central is that the capitalist state is not neutral. It is the instrument for organized violence to ensure the rule of one class—the capitalists—over another class, the proletariat. As Marxists, we know that the bourgeois state at its core consists of special armed bodies of men—the cops, the military, the prison system and the whole “justice system”—whose job is to protect the profits and rule of the capitalists and to repress the workers. All historical experience has shown that the working class cannot reform the state and use it in its own interests but must create its own state, a workers state. The revolutionary fight for proletarian state power is the only road to black freedom and the emancipation of labor and all the oppressed.

We didn't invent the perspective on which our anti-Klan mobilizations are based. It is the concrete application of the experience of the Bolshevik Party which led the first, and only, successful working-class revolution in history—the October Revolution of 1917. Like the pro-capitalist trade-union bureaucracy in this country which undermines the gains that were won through hard class struggle, the gains of the Russian Revolution were betrayed by the Stalinist bureaucracy which hijacked the exercise of political power by the workers. Paralleling the policies of the AFL-CIO tops, the Stalinists pursued class collaboration, not internationalist class struggle. Ultimately, this led to the destruction of the Soviet Union



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PDC victory party after October 23 mobilization.

by the forces of imperialism and domestic counterrevolution in 1991-92.

Since then, the imperialist rulers have been celebrating the “death of communism.” But communism isn't dead—it is the program that expresses the class interests of the workers and oppressed, growing out of their aspirations and struggles for a society of genuine equality and social justice. What is needed to realize those aspirations is a workers party, which can bring the consciousness to the working class of its social power and historic interests in fighting the rule of capital and every manifestation of the barbarity of this system. What is needed is a workers revolution, which will break the power of the few and liberate the many—the working people and their allies—who will employ the wealth created by their labor for the benefit of the majority both in America and around the globe. On October 23, thousands of New York's working people and minorities got a small taste of that workers power. ■

Spartacist Forum

Black and Red: Class-Struggle Road to Black Freedom

The Fight for a Workers' America

Death Warrant Signed—Update on Urgent Fight to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Saturday, October 30, 3 p.m.

Vanderbilt Hall, Room 214, New York University School of Law
40 Washington Sq. South (between MacDougal and Sullivan Sts.)
Take A-B-C-D-E-F trains to W4th St., N-R to 8th St. or 1-9 to Christopher St.

NEW YORK CITY

For more information: (212) 267-1025

Partisan Defense Committee Call

“All Out to Stop the KKK on October 23!”

We print below the call of the Partisan Defense Committee for the labor/black mobilization to stop the KKK in New York City as issued on October 14.

The race-hate killers of the KKK want to bring the lynch rope, the burning cross and the stench of the death camps to New York City. The American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan say they will rally here on October 23. The Partisan Defense Committee says the Klan is making a big mistake by thinking they can get away with this racist provocation. There is no way that working people in this heavily black, Hispanic and immigrant city are going to allow these hooded terrorists to organize here for lynch mob terror. And it is precisely the working people who make this city run who have the power to stop them.

The Partisan Defense Committee is calling on all the city's trade unions, on black people, Hispanics, Asians, Jews, Catholics and other minorities and immigrants, student organizations, gays, all opponents of racist terror to join us in a massive display of overwhelming strength and social power: All out to stop the KKK on October 23! Be there: noon, 100 Centre Street, same time and same place as the Klan says they are going to rally!

The KKK threat comes just as Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge has signed an execution warrant for black death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The death penalty is the lynch

rope made legal. The state wants to take the life of this innocent man solely because he is an eloquent and unbending opponent of racist repression. Joining the cops' crusade for Mumia's execution are

the fascists of the National Association for the Advancement of White People. In mobilizing against the KKK, we must raise our voices to demand: *Freedom now for Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the racist death penalty!*

The reign of racist cop terror unleashed by Giuliani—the sadistic torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima, the death squad-style execution of black African Amadou Diallo, the gunning down of Hasidic Jew Gidone Busch—makes the Klan killers think they can now freely maraud through New York. They seek to ride the racist “law and order” campaign pushed by Democrats and Republicans alike. Appeals to the government to “ban the Klan” only reinforce the state's repressive powers against labor, the left and minorities. What is needed is



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Trade unionists were the backbone of NYC mobilization to stop the KKK. Right: contingent of TWU Local 100 transit workers.

“We endorse and will help build a mass labor/black demonstration in New York City: ‘All Out to Stop the Ku Klux Klan October 23!’”

Aboriginal Education Program, University of New South Wales,* Sydney, NSW, Australia
Jill Adams, Shop Steward, New York University Cafeteria Workers, United Food Workers Local 424, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY
Larry Adams, President, Mail Handlers Local 300,* New York, NY
Adult Education Chapter Executive Committee, United Federation of Teachers,* New York, NY
African Club, Bronx Community College,* Bronx, NY
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1179, Jamaica, NY
Asian Initiative @ NYU, New York University,* New York, NY
Asociacion de Mujeres Latinas, Bronx, NY
Asociacion Mexico-Americana de Trabajadores, New York, NY
Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, Metals Division, Shop Stewards Committee, Port Melbourne, Vic., Australia
Iris Baez, Anthony Baez Memorial Fund, Bronx, NY
Marlene Bastien, President, Haitian Women of Miami, Inc., Miami, FL
Louise Bell, President, UAW Local 719,* Countryside, IL
Dr. Paul Bermanzohn, Greensboro Justice Fund, Brooklyn, NY
Bethel United African Church, Somerset, NJ
Wanda Black, President, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241,* Chicago, IL
Leah Bloch, Director, Hashomer Hatzair Australia, Caulfield Junction, Vic., Australia
Gilbert Bobé, Executive Board member, Transport Workers Union Local 100,* New York, NY
Andrew Bonthius, Executive Vice President for Hourly Teachers, American Federation of Teachers Local 771,* Oakland, CA
Boston Spartacus Youth Club
Roy Bourgeois, Co-Director, School of the Americas Watch,* Columbus, GA
Phil Brew, Authorised Union Representative, Sydney East Letters Facility, Communications, Electrical and Plumbers Union,* Stanmore, NSW, Australia
Edward L. Brown Sr., Secretary-Treasurer, Civil Rights Committee International Longshoremen's Association, Norfolk, VA
Tamika Brown, Vice President, Caribbean Students Association, Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
Pedro Cabán, Associate Professor, Puerto Rican/Hispanic/Caribbean Studies, Rutgers University,* New Brunswick, NJ
Mariela E. Cabrera, President, CASA, Lehman College,* New York, NY
James Cameron, America's Black Holocaust Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Campus Action of Capitol District, Albany, NY
Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Metro Toronto Region, Toronto, Ontario
Canadian Union of Postal Workers Toronto Local, Toronto, Ontario
Caribbean Students Association, Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
Eugene Carrington, member, Unity Party,* Brooklyn, NY
Rubin Hurricane Carter, Toronto, Ontario
Zaida Castillo, Director Programs Operations, Hispanic AIDS Forum,* Jackson Heights, NY
Catholic Center at New York University, New York, NY
Hector Ceballos, Co-Chair, Queens of Color at Columbia

University, New York, NY
Chabad @ NYU, New York, NY
Charas/El Bohio Cultural and Community Center, New York, NY
Arthur Cheliotis, President, Communications Workers of America Local 1180, New York, NY
Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers, Chicago, IL
Chicago Labor Black Struggle League, Chicago, IL
Civil Rights Committee International Longshoremen's Association
Colia L. Clark, Chairwoman, Campus Action of Capitol District; Manager, Social Justice Center, Albany, NY
Lennox Clarke, Shop Steward, Local 1549, AFSCME DC 37,* New York, NY
Club M.A.C. (Mature Adult Coalition), Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
College Voice, College of Staten Island,* Staten Island, NY
Leroy Collier, President, National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 2200,* Pasadena, CA
Committee for Workers Self-Defense, Brooklyn, NY
Communications Workers of America Local 1180, New York, NY
Communications Workers of America Local 1182, Forest Hills, NY
Cornell Organization for Labor Action, Ithaca, NY
Elijah Crane, Rainbow Flags for Mumia,* Brooklyn, NY
Joseph Curto, Graphic Communications International Union, Local 1L, Amalgamated Lithographers of America,* New York, NY
Larry Cutler, AFSCME DC 37 Retirees,* New York, NY
Dan S. D'Ambly, Delegate, Amalgamated Lithographers of America Local 1L,* New York, NY
Ossie Davis, Actor, New York, NY
Claude W. DeBerry, Grievance Committeeperson, United Steelworkers of America Local 8888,* Newport News, VA
Olivia deBree, Coordinator, USLAC, Middletown, CT
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Devil's Advocates/Triage Records, Brooklyn, NY
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Dominican Student Association, Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
Dominican Students Association, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
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Ford PTA Dagenham Shop Stewards Committee, London, England
Nereyda Franco, President, Asociacion de Mujeres Latinas, Bronx, NY
Freedom Socialist Party, New York, NY
Rabbi Allen I. Freehling, Los Angeles, CA
Carlos “Chino” Garcia, President, Charas/El Bohio Cultural and Community Center, New York, NY

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Adriana Goldstaub, Central Foundation of Contemporary Jewish Documentation,* Milano, Italy
Dr. Carolyn Goodman, mother of Andrew Goodman, New York, NY
Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater, New York, NY
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Haitian Information Center, Brooklyn, NY
Haitian Mobilization to Defend Immigrants' Rights, Brooklyn, NY
Haitian Women of Miami, Inc., Miami, FL
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Hostos and the Community Organization, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Indian Heritage Club, Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
Institute 4 “Interracial” Harmony, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 808, Long Island City, NY
International Longshoremen's Association Local 1408, Jacksonville, FL
Internationalist Group
Irish Traveller Movement, Dublin, Ireland
Islamic Center of New York University, New York, NY
Bennie Jackson, Recording Secretary, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 705,* Chicago, IL
Geronimo ji Jaga, Morgan City, LA
Barbara Jeter, Delegate, 1199 Harlem Hospital,* New York, NY
Katie Jordan, President, Coalition of Labor Union Women,* Chicago, IL
Bernt Kamin, Executive Committee, Union of Public Employees (ÖTV)*; Spokesman, Shop Stewards Committee at GHBG* (Hamburg harbor) Hamburg, Germany
Stuart Katzenberg, Chairman of the General Secretariat, Youth for Justice, Connecticut College,* New London, CT
Robin D.G. Kelley, Professor of History, New York University,* New York, NY
Karl Kielhorn, member, presidium of the Dachau concentration camp community,* Berlin, Germany
Sayoko Kikuchi, Anti-Death Penalty Association,* Tokyo, Japan
Dae-Keun Kim, Management Committee member, South Korea Human Rights Action Australia, Campsie, NSW, Australia
Labor Black League for Social Defense, New York, NY
Raynard LaForest, Director, Haitian Constituency, USA; member, Steering Committee, Haitian Mobilization to Defend Immigrants' Rights, Brooklyn, NY



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a determined, disciplined mobilization of labor standing at the head of all the oppressed to *stop the fascists*, not for small groups to engage in confrontations with the police which accomplish nothing other than getting some heads busted and people thrown in jail.

Beware those who say the Klan and Nazis should be ignored. Beware those self-avowed spokesmen for the oppressed who defend the Klan, arguing it’s an issue of “free speech.” The KKK provocation has nothing to do with “free speech.” The KKK and Nazis “speak” with the lynch rope. Their “words” are fired out of the barrel of a gun. Remember the 1963 bombing of four young black girls in a Birmingham church and the 1964 murder of civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner in Mississippi. “Free speech” for the fascists means the mangled body of James Byrd Jr., dragged to his death in Texas last year; the murder-

Building for labor/black mobilization. Left: October 21 PDC press conference denounced collusion by Democrats Stringer and Sharpton with KKK and Giuliani. Right: Mobilizing students at BMCC. Students from campuses around the area turned out on October 23.



AP

integrated union struggle and a mortal threat to the whole labor movement.

The workers of this city have been taking it in the neck from Wall Street and Gracie Mansion for years. Enough! A powerful show of labor’s force on October 23 against the KKK will send a message to all the union-busters and strike-breakers. For way too long the power of the unions has been shackled, not least by direct government intervention bringing the workers organizations under the thumb of this capitalist government.

To defend its own interests and the interests of all the oppressed, labor must stand independent of all the agencies and parties of the capitalist class enemy. The cops who are called out to attack labor rallies like on May 12 have no place in unions! There must be no illusions in the Democratic Party which has joined with the Republicans in destroying welfare, pushing the racist death penalty



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and flooding the streets of the ghettos and barrios with more cops. A mass labor/black rally to clear the KKK racist terrorists off the streets would be a big step toward building the kind of party that working people need—a multiracial revolutionary workers party that fights for their interests and those of all the oppressed against this entire system of capitalist exploitation and racist reaction.

In cities from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta, San Francisco, Chicago and elsewhere, we have initiated anti-fascist united-front mobilizations that have brought out thousands of determined opponents of lynch mob terror. Now, let’s make sure that on October 23 the streets of New York City belong to the working people who produce all the wealth in this society. *All Out to Stop the KKK on October 23!*

Partisan Defense Committee
14 October 1999

Wing Lam, Director, Chinese Staff and Workers Association,* New York, NY
Latinos Unidos Con Honor y Amistad, New York University,* New York, NY
League of Antifascists, Leipzig, Germany
League for the Revolutionary Party
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Jimmy Moyan, Chief Steward, Transport Workers Union Local 241,* New York, NY
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National Council of Trade Unions, Johannesburg, South Africa
National Union of Mineworkers, South Africa
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, Finsbury Park Branch, London, England
Newark Anti-Racism Action League, Newark, NJ
New York Alliance Black School Educators, Brooklyn, NY
New York Public Library Guild Local 1930, AFSCME DC 37,* New York, NY
New York Spartacus Youth Club
New York Taxi Workers Alliance, New York, NY
New York University Cafeteria Workers, United Food Workers Local 424, New York, NY
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Nuclear Industry Workers Union (SUTIN), Mexico City, Mexico
NYC Jam Session, Inc., New York, NY
Maya O’Connor, Redleaf, Washington, D.C.
Silvia Orellana, Secretary, Ecuadorian Club, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Palestine Aid Society, New York, NY
Palestine Education Committee, New York, NY
Parents Against Police Brutality, Bronx, NY

Partisan Defense Committee
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Peruvians For All Club, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Philippine Forum/Panata, New York, NY
Progressive Labor Party
Puerto Rican Organization, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Queers of Color at Columbia University, New York, NY
Carmen Quiñones,* District Leader, Democratic Party 68th Assembly District, New York, NY
Radical Women, New York, NY
Danielle Redden, Southern Poverty Law Center,* Philadelphia, PA
Redleaf, Washington, D.C.
Refuse & Resist! New York Chapter
Revolutionary Communist Party, New York Branch, New York, NY
Richmond Animal Rights Network, Virginia Commonwealth University,* Richmond, VA
S. Riley, Convenor, Ford PTA Dagenham Shop Stewards Committee, London, England
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Roy Rollin, *College Voice*, College of Staten Island,* Staten Island, NY
Antonio Rosario, member, Parents Against Police Brutality, Bronx, NY
Margarita Rosario, Founder, Parents Against Police Brutality, Bronx, NY
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Mark Sobel, President, National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 294,* College Point, NY
Social Action Club, LaGuardia High School,* New York, NY
Social Justice Center, Albany, NY
Social Service Employees Union Local 371, New York, NY
Social Service Employees Union Local 215 Executive Board, AFSCME DC 1707,* New York, NY
Society Club, Lehman College,* Bronx, NY
South Coast Labour Council, Wollongong, NSW, Australia
South Korea Human Rights Action Australia, Campsie, NSW, Australia
Spartacist League/U.S.

Charles F. Spencer, President, International Longshoremens’ Association Local 1408, Jacksonville, FL
Rahel and Ernst Springer, League of Antifascists, Leipzig, Germany
Houston Stevens, Newark Anti-Racism Action League, Newark, NJ
Brenda C. Stokely, President, Social Service Employees Union Local 215, AFSCME DC 1707,* New York, NY
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, NY
Student Environmental Action Coalition Bucknell Chapter, Lewisburg, PA
Student Government, Borough of Manhattan Community College,* New York, NY
Student Government Association, Bronx Community College,* Bronx, NY
Student Government Organization, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Student Power for the New Millennium, Hostos Community College,* Bronx, NY
Hitoshi Tanaka, Bureau Head, Bank Laborers Research Society,* Tokyo, Japan
Carol Taylor, Institute 4 “Interracial” Harmony, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
Thuringia Regional Working Collective Antifascism/Antiracism, Erfurt, Germany
Kenzo Tomonaga, Department Head, Buraku Liberation Human Rights Research Center,* Osaka, Japan
Roger Toussaint, Chairperson, Track Division, Transport Workers Union Local 100,* New York, NY
Undergraduate Student Government, CCNY,* New York, NY
Union of Trade, Bank and Insurance Workers (HBV), Thuringia, Erfurt, Germany
USLAC, Middletown, CT
Hector J. Valdivia, Secretary-Treasurer, ILWU Local 6,* Oakland, CA
The Village Temple, New York, NY
Signe Waller, Vice President and board member, Greensboro Justice Fund, Bringham, IN
James Webb, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists,* New York, NY
Cornel West, Professor, Harvard University,* Cambridge, MA
Lindsey A. Wight, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Bucknell Chapter, Lewisburg, PA
John Williams, Shop Steward, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union,* Essendon, Vic., Australia
Standish E. Willis, Chair, Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers, Chicago, IL
Womyn’s Center, New York University,* New York, NY
Keith Wright, member, New York State Assembly,* Chair, NYS Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caucus,* New York, NY
Timothy W. Wright, Richmond Animal Rights Network, Virginia Commonwealth University,* Richmond, VA
Ryuji Yagi, Publications Department, Social Democratic Party, National Federation,* Tokyo, Japan
Youth for Justice, Connecticut College,* New London, CT
Abdur-Rahman Zaid, Chief Shop Steward, Harlem Hospital and Clerical Associate,* New York, NY
D. Zerevski, Union Delegate, ATCO, Australian Workers Union,* Sanenbans, Vic., Australia
Zulu Nation @ NYU, New York, NY
* Organizational affiliation for identification purposes only.

We want to make it very clear that these endorsers do not necessarily agree in any particular with the call by the Partisan Defense Committee.

Black and Red—The Class-Struggle Road to Black Freedom in a Workers America

Mobilize Labor/Black Power to Smash Racist Terror!

We reprint below the Spartacist League statement distributed at the October 23 mobilization to stop the KKK.

This is the first time in memory that the Klan has tried to ride in New York City. They come not to practice “free speech” as those traitors and fools, the lawyers for the KKK in the New York Civil Liberties Union, would have you believe. The Klan is coming here as the shock troops for a “White America” which has no place for blacks, Hispanics, Jews, immigrants, Catholics, gays and trade unionists—for the vast majority of the people that live and work in this city. The Klan speaks with the burning cross and the lynch rope.

The KKK is well aware that they are coming to enemy territory. But there is much in New York that now encourages these nativist American fascists. Amadou Diallo and Gidone Busch are cut down in a hail of bullets by the city’s kill-crazy cops. An aide for Rudy Giuliani touts workfare, designed to replace union labor with impoverished welfare recipients working for starvation wages, under the banner of Hitler’s concentration camp slogan, “*Arbeit macht frei*” (work makes you free). Giuliani, who is not Hitler but thinks a lot like him, goes after everyone from immigrant cab drivers to hot dog vendors and moves to close down the Brooklyn Museum for displaying “decent” art.

These are not just the expression of the unbridled contempt for the masses of this city in which Giuliani openly glories. These atrocities express the class interests of the masters of this capitalist society. Democratic president Bill Clinton has destroyed welfare and implemented police-state measures aimed particularly at blacks and immigrants. Thousands more cops now maraud the streets of America, which has the largest prison population of any advanced industrialized country.

The Klan was born in the aftermath of the Civil War, to extinguish by fire and blood the newly won freedom from slavery of black Americans. Today it is the most extreme, terrorist expression of a society that is based on increasingly brutal exploitation and racist oppression. As overseers of a decaying imperialist order, the bosses must each day increasingly grind down the working masses, here and throughout the world, in the pursuit of profits that fuel their wealth and power, no matter what the price in human misery and death. The fascists are their reserve troops to be deployed—as they were in Germany with Hitler’s rise to power—when the anger and outrage of an insurgent working class can no longer be restrained by illusions in bourgeois democracy. The capitalists have no inherent fondness for bourgeois democracy. Indeed, while claiming the mantle of democratic rights (so long as it is convenient) here at home, the imperialist masters have never considered that the masses of the “Third World” countries which they plunder and oppress have any claim to the benefits of democracy.

This mobilization was initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee—a legal and social defense organization which is



WV Photo

October 23: It took revolutionary leadership to mobilize New York labor and minorities in powerful united-front action to drive out the KKK racist terrorists.

in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League. The PDC and SL understand that the power to *stop* the Klan lies in the social power of the organized working class standing at the head of all the intended victims of the Klan lynch rope. But for that power to be felt, labor and its allies must stand independent of all the parties and agencies of the capitalist class enemy. In building for today’s labor/black mobilization, we fight to give an organized, militant and determined political expression to the outrage of the working people, blacks, Hispanics, youth and thousands of others who know what the Klan is and don’t intend to let them ride in our city.

And we face powerful enemies. Not least, of course, is the Giuliani administration, which arrogates to itself the “right” to determine who can walk, speak or protest in New York City and enforces that with an army of cops. But it is not just Giuliani who fears and loathes the spectre of an independent mobilization of the working people who make this city run. Equally threatened are the false “friends of labor” and puta-

tive spokesmen for the black population in the Democratic Party such as Al Sharpton, Assemblyman Scott Stringer and their lackeys in the top echelons of the trade-union bureaucracy. They stand behind the efforts of the New York Civil Liberties Union to ensure that the KKK gets a free ride in the name of “free speech.”

Lynch rope murder and the racist assassin’s bullets—such as those that were fired out the barrels of Klan guns, in broad daylight, to shoot down five leftists and trade-union organizers in cold blood in Greensboro, North Carolina 20 years ago—have nothing to do with free speech. James Byrd Jr. dragged to his death by a pickup truck; Matthew Shepard crucified for being gay; a Filipino American postal worker in L.A. and a black basketball coach in Chicago gunned down on the streets—that is how the Klan and Nazis “speak.” The Klan are not right-wing ideologues but paramilitary thugs whose rallies are an incitement to racist terror and murder.

Sharpton cloaks his defense of the “rights” of these hooded nightriders as

opposition to Giuliani’s assault on the rights of just about everybody in this city. He scoffs that the Klan is little danger when compared to the terror perpetrated against blacks and others by the NYPD. It is true that, for now, the main perpetrators of organized violence against the working class and all those at the bottom of this society are the cops. Yet when blacks and others in New York City exploded over the killing of Amadou Diallo by racist cops who cut him down in a hail of 41 bullets, Sharpton campaigned for a 10-point program for police reform which included the demand that cops get a raise!

Alarmed by the outrage over the Diallo killing and the sadistic torture of Abner Louima, the Democratic Party maneuvered to contain that outrage within the confines of electoral pressure politics. Today the same Sharpton who wore a wire for the Feds, and his fellow Democrats, are working in concert with the Giuliani administration, the cops and courts in defense of the Klan rally!

Again the purpose is to contain and muzzle any expression of the anger of blacks and working people, which threatens not only the Klan but its ruling-class masters, who are as much represented by the Democrats as they are by the Republicans.

As Marxist revolutionaries, we know better than anyone the value of free speech. That is why we forthrightly oppose any appeals to the agencies of the capitalist state to “ban the Klan.” Every bourgeois law curtailing freedom of expression and assembly—from the 1940s’ Smith Act, supposedly directed against the fascists, to today’s “conspiracy” laws—has been and will be used to persecute and imprison leftists, trade unionists and all fighters against injustice and oppression. The defense of free speech, the defense of the right to bear arms, are a defense of the very ability of the masses to organize and defend themselves against state terror. But these rights are not secured by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, documents which are only sacred to the dupes of capitalist propaganda, not to the ruling-class masters themselves. What rights the working



Novosti

We are the party of the Russian Revolution! Soldiers march in Moscow with banner reading “Communism” after October Revolution of 1917. Protest against visiting Russian counterrevolutionary Boris Yeltsin, NYC, 1992.



WV Photo

class has secured are those that have been won through hard-fought struggle.

The role of the capitalist state is clearly demonstrated by the October 21 federal court decision giving the Klan everything they asked for while denying a sound permit to the PDC at the site where these hooded terrorists intend to rally. This deal is an attempt to guarantee that the Klan will be heard and not their intended victims.

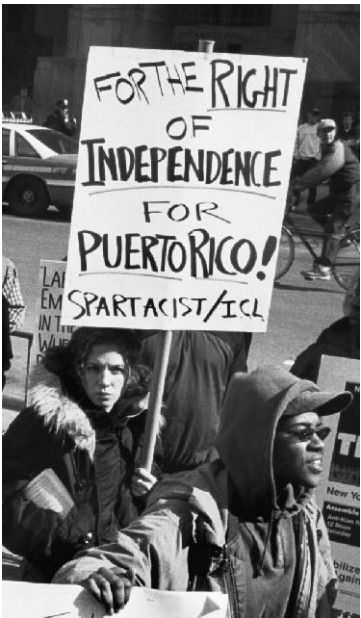
When Sharpton and others—like Local 1199 president Dennis Rivera and others who purport to be the leaders of labor—peddle the Klan’s right to “free speech,” they are not merely betraying the people of this city to reactionary attack. They are signaling their full acceptance of, and unwillingness to fight, the capitalist state power which sends its rampaging cops through the ghettos and outlaws militant picket lines while holding the unions captive in the bosses’ courts and government receivership.

The trade-union bureaucrats have long chained the social power of labor by tying the interests of the workers to the capitalist parties that represent the interests of the class enemy, particularly the Democratic Party. Now a new generation of union tops in New York City and elsewhere calls on the bosses’ government to cleanse the unions of “corruption” while unions like AFSCME organize the enemies of the working class—cops and

courts with their calls for a “new trial.” This former Black Panther, award-winning journalist and supporter of the MOVE organization was framed up and sentenced to die solely for his lifetime of struggle against racism and oppression. He has now been served a death warrant and is scheduled to die at the hands of the state’s executioners on December 2.

We have been fighting for Mumia’s freedom for more than a decade. He is the symbol of what the capitalist “injustice” system is all about and of the racist barbarity which is the death penalty. This innocent man should not be subjected to a new trial, he should be here today alongside us stopping the Klan. In fighting to mobilize labor/black power against the KKK lynchers, we fight to strike a powerful blow against the “legal” lynchers of the capitalist state. The rulers of this country want to kill Jamal because in their eyes he represents what they fear most, a black revolutionary. As opponents of the rule of racist American capitalism, the purpose of the Spartacist League is to bring together the forces for American socialist revolution—labor and blacks under the leadership of reds.

The trade-union tops and their left hangers-on look to the Democrats to assure that the bosses’ state act in a way that it cannot—for the common good at home and as “humanitarians” abroad.



Signs at October 23 mobilization. Working class must oppose anti-immigrant chauvinism and colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

prison guards—into the ranks of the unions.

They are aided and abetted by groups such as the International Socialist Organization. These cynics joined Sharpton in offering a 10-point program for cop “reform” in the wake of the Diallo killing. Their supporters wrote a blueprint for the state takeover of the Teamsters union. Now they stand behind the efforts of Democratic Party Assemblyman Scott Stringer—in collusion with the Giuliani administration, the NYCLU lawyers for the Klan and the Klan itself—to sabotage the independent mobilization of the working class and all the oppressed to stop the KKK. The Stringer rally is built and organized by, among others, Al Sharpton, who filed a “friend of the court” brief on behalf of the Klan! Some anti-Klan rally!

Joining in are organizations such as the Communist Party which long ago made their peace with the rule of capital. As they fall in behind Stringer, all these outfits have the effrontery to claim that they are holding their own “anti-Klan” rally today, when in fact Stringer & Co. have a deal with the KKK, brokered by the NYCLU, to share a sound permit with the Klan, with the sound controlled by the cops, so that the racist murderers can organize for genocide without being confronted with the justified anger of their intended victims.

These same organizations—which remained silent in the face of the Klan threat until given voice by the Democratic Party Assemblyman’s appeals for “tolerance”—see the case of black death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal not as an indictment of the inherent racist injustice of capitalist America but as an opportunity to sow illusions in the capitalist

But the Democrats are in the forefront of pushing bloody war mobilizations abroad and attacks on labor, the poor and helpless at home. These attacks have only increased in the aftermath of the final overturn of the remaining gains of the only successful workers revolution in history—the 1917 Russian Revolution.

We communists of the Spartacist League fought to the end to defend the gains that remained in the Soviet Union against the imperialists who from 1917 on were bent on its destruction. The imperialists received invaluable help from the Stalinists who usurped power from the proletariat in a political counterrevolution in 1923-24 and thereafter pursued policies of class collaboration worldwide which blocked the only ultimate defense of the USSR—new workers revolutions internationally to finally



Passenger train in Serbia destroyed by U.S./NATO bombing in April. Trotskyists called for military defense of Serbia, defeat of U.S. imperialism through workers revolution.

destroy the power of the world imperialist system.

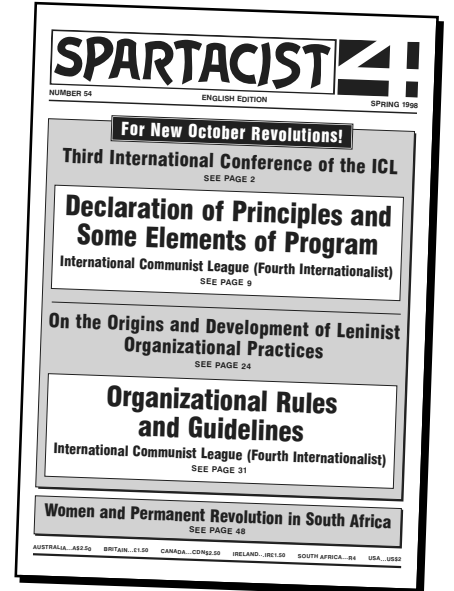
The counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union in 1991-92 set the stage for the U.S. imperialists, in the interests of strengthening their world dominance, to export “democracy” and “human rights” on the wings of bombers. A million and a half Iraqis have died, while Serbia was bombed back to the Middle Ages. As the rulers hypocritically rail against “ethnic cleansing” in Serbia, in cities across America the cops are mobilized to protect the KKK whose purpose is the genocidal elimination of blacks and anyone else who doesn’t fit their fantasies of a “racially pure” America where trade unions don’t exist.

The Spartacist League’s strategy of mobilizing the social power of labor in defense of all the intended victims, and all the opponents, of Klan terror derives from our revolutionary purpose. Through such mobilizations we seek to imbue the working class with an understanding and confidence in its own strength as those who produce all the wealth in this society, and with the consciousness that this strength must be brought to bear in defense of all the oppressed, mobilized independently of the exploiting class. Key to unlocking the shackles that bind labor to its exploiters is its active mobilization in defense of the cause of black freedom.

A mass labor-based mobilization to stop the Klan in New York would prepare the way to organize unions in the Klan’s home territory, the “right to work” South. The GM and UPS strikes in the last couple of years have showed labor’s combativity and its power to shake the capitalist order. The widespread support for these strikes testified to the deep discontent of millions who feel their living standards under attack. The social tinder to ignite mass struggles against exploitation, racism and imperialist war can be seen everywhere. To weld together the strug-

gles of labor and all the oppressed behind a program to smash capitalism and create a workers America requires the revolutionary leadership of a vanguard communist party.

A generation ago, millions took to the streets for civil rights, braving the police clubs, fire hoses and attack dogs of the Southern sheriffs and the murderous terror of the Klan. But in the absence of a revolutionary leadership, their courage and sacrifice won only the most formal and token gains. The segregation of black people at the bottom of racist American



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society cannot be “reformed” out of existence; the whole rotten system must be overthrown by a conscious working class under revolutionary leadership. Finish the Civil War—For black liberation through socialist revolution!

—23 October 1999

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Speeches at NYC Labor/Black Mobilization

“KKK, No Way! You Ain’t Gonna March Today!”

We print below in excerpted form a selection of speeches at the October 23 mobilization to stop the KKK. Because the speeches were interrupted when the KKK was sighted, a number of scheduled speakers from endorsing organizations did not get to address the rally, among them Conrad Muhammad of A Movement for CHHANGE, Alan Goldblatt of Communications Workers of America Local 1180, and representatives of the Newark Anti-Racism Action League, NYC Jam Session Inc., the League for the Revolutionary Party, the Internationalist Group, Progressive Labor Party, the Committee for Workers Self-Defense and the Partisan Defense Committee itself. Also on the speakers list were individuals from the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, Bronx Community College, Martin Luther King Jr. High School, WBAI radio and the People’s Music Network.

Xandra

Labor Black League for Social Defense

Here in New York City the Labor Black League was first built around the defense case of James Grimes, a black transit worker who was arrested and was faced with a gun rap for defending himself on the job against three muggers. The Labor Black League helped mobilize members of the powerful transit union to come out in support during his trial. The charges were dropped! We say: Gun control kills blacks! For the right of armed self-defense!

Today, what we have on the streets of New York City is a class battle. On our side we have the independent mobilization of workers, blacks, immigrants, gays to defend this city against the racist terrorists of the KKK. On the other side we have Giuliani and his racist cops and also the Democrats, the likes of Al Sharpton, Scott Stringer and some of their lackeys in the trade-union bureaucracy, who have all tried to ensure that the KKK has rights. They have proven that they are our enemies.

What we need now is our own party! A workers party that will be the tribune of all the oppressed and fight for a workers revolution. A party like the Bolsheviks of Lenin and Trotsky that led the Russian Revolution, the first time in history that workers took power in their own hands! Down with the Democrats and Republicans! For a workers party that will champion all the oppressed!

The black question is key in this country. As Karl Marx said, “Labor cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.” It’s time to finish the Civil War! Black liberation through socialist revolution! Join the Labor Black League!

Charles Ensley

President, Social Service Employees Union Local 371

I was in Los Angeles last week, and I got a call from the Partisan Defense Committee, and they told me that the Ku Klux Klan was gonna march in New York City. I thought they were kidding me! I’m president of the Social Services Employees Union Local 371—a mighty, mighty union! And you can tell 371 is in the house. Let me tell you who we are. We’re black, we’re white, we’re Latino, we’re Asian American, we’re Native



“We stopped the Klan!” PDC labor coordinator Gene Herson (second from left) on speaker’s platform next to SSEU Local 371 president Charles Ensley after KKK had scurried away.

American, but we found the common ground, the common ground is the union. And we’re here as a union in the center of New York City to say to the Ku Klux Klan that New York is not Klan country, New York is labor country! I want you to be absolutely clear on one thing. The Klan should not be ignored. When they raise their ugly heads—and their heads are ugly, even though they might be hidden by hoods—it is incumbent upon all of us to stand up and say: We’re fired up! We won’t take it no more!

Let me tell you, brothers and sisters, the struggle continues. On behalf of the 58,000 of us I’ll commit to you that we will be in the struggle until victory is ours. God bless you, and keep the fight going. Free Mumia! Free Mumia!

Anne Bruny

Medgar Evers College

Most of us were told that this was cancelled when I came from school last night. But I didn’t believe it, I came anyway. So for those who couldn’t be here, I’m here to say that we all support you from Medgar Evers College. And as you all know, Medgar Evers was killed by a KKK member. That’s the reason I thought my school government and everyone else from that school should have been here. I know I may not look old enough to know what it’s about, but believe me, my parents are immigrants, my whole family is immigrants, I know what it will mean if the KKK has the right to do anything they want in the city. So once again, thank you everyone for coming here.

Ashanti Blaize

Columbia University

Let me hear you, Columbia University students who are here today! I think this



Ashanti Blaize

is a beautiful thing to see, everybody coming out here, getting together, organizing, unifying for something like this. This is important, important, important—this is so important that we are here today. The KKK thinks that they can come out today and do this without any of the community coming out and saying: Hell no, you all are not doing this today, or any other day for that matter! We’re here today to say: No, you will not take over our community! You will not spurt off your hate speeches! Columbia University is 100 percent behind this. All of the cultural clubs, all the political clubs, we are behind this, and we are here to say: KKK, not today!

Emily Woo Yamasaki

Radical Women

KKK, run away! We control the streets today! We’re all gathered here today to show the Klan that we won’t tolerate them or any other of their neo-fascist ilk here in New York City. The politics of capitalism are the politics of scapegoating of oppressed groups. That’s us, women, people of color, lesbians and gays, political radicals like Mumia Abu-Jamal, workers, trade unionists and immigrants among others. They scapegoat us for the economic crisis. And the KKK is not an isolated expression, it is one of the most extreme expressions. We must build the united front to drive the Klan out of our city though unity of all those who believe in civil rights, equality and fairness. The Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women call on everyone here today to send a united, principled message to the ultraright-wing bigots. Strength through unity on our side! We won’t run and we won’t hide!

Alma Gomez

Spartacus Youth Club

Greetings! The Spartacus Youth Club is the youth group of the revolutionary socialist Spartacist League. We have been out there every single day building for this mobilization since news broke that the KKK was planning to bring the burning cross, the lynch rope and the stench of concentration camps to New York City.

We have brought out here contingents of students to join the power of the mul-

tiracial working class in New York City, students from NYU, Columbia, Hostos, BMCC, and all over the city. Young workers and students who want to become professional revolutionaries should join us! When you join the Spartacus Youth Clubs you get to politically fight out in the streets and on the campuses for a program of genuine socialist revolution. You get to see this unique program—to combat racial and sexual oppression, to struggle for the working class to lead all the oppressed against the racist KKK killers, to fight for socialism—come alive like it is today, right now.

The Spartacus Youth Club staunchly stands against the ruling class’ racist drive against the democratic rights of youth and the oppressed. We say: Down with the squeal rules! For free abortion on demand! Full democratic rights for homosexuals! Government out of the bedroom! We fight to win youth to the perspective of building the revolutionary, multiracial workers party that will be the tribune of all the people and the necessary instrument for the victory of the proletariat over capitalism and the fascist murderers it breeds.

Our comrades in Mexico of the Juventud Espartaquista, youth group of the Grupo Espartaquista de México, have



WV Photo

Alma Gomez

been in the forefront in defense of the ongoing Mexican UNAM strike, which has lasted nearly seven months. The striking UNAM students are fighting to repulse the attacks on education being implemented by the Mexican bourgeoisie, lackeys of U.S. imperialism and its NAFTA and IMF dictates. We say: Down with government repression against the strikers! Victory to the UNAM strike!

I am sure many of you run across groups supposedly called socialist. For example, you may notice a group called the International Socialist Organization and you may be wondering to yourself why they are not with us today. The reality is that the ISO would much rather join Democratic Party hacks like Stringer and black nationalist demagogue Al Sharpton in a demonstration for so-called

No More Greensboro Massacres!

November 3 marks 20 years since five civil rights activists and union organizers, supporters of the Communist Workers Party, were gunned down in broad daylight in Greensboro, North Carolina by KKK and Nazi gunmen aided and abetted by local police and federal agents. As we wrote at the time, “Those Klan guns were—and *are*—aimed at every single black and minority-group family, every trade unionist and socialist, every social ‘deviant’ in America” (WV No. 243, 9 November 1979). When the KKK announced plans to “celebrate” the Greensboro Massacre one week later in Detroit, the Spartacist League initiated a labor/black mobilization which drew over 500, primarily black auto workers, who defied the threat of arrests by black Democratic mayor Coleman Young and made sure *the Klan did not ride in the Motor City*.

As we fight for a proletarian revolution which will ensure that there

will be no more Greensboros, we honor the Greensboro martyrs—Cesar Cauce, Michael Nathan, Bill Sampson, Sandi Smith, James Waller. We print below a statement to the October 23 NYC labor/black mobilization by Dr. Paul Bermanzohn, a spokesman for the Greensboro Justice Fund and a survivor of the 1979 massacre.

* * *

On behalf of the Greensboro Justice Fund I wish to extend our support to your effort to oppose the Klan. I cannot be with you today physically but I am with you in spirit.

The Ku Klux Klan is the world’s oldest terrorist organization. They stand for a return to government-sanctioned white supremacy and they exist to deprive large sections of the population of their rights. It is hypocrisy for the Klan to stand on its rights when the whole purpose of the Klan is to deprive people of their rights.

It is vital to oppose the Klan and its program of imposing a reign of terror on black people, labor, Jews, gays and the others it targets. Getting rid of the Klan is an essential part of the fight to make the U.S. into a decent society.

To effectively fight the Klan we must understand its history and how it works. From its start, the Klan has been nurtured and protected by the U.S. government. The state protects the Klan. And the state has been influenced by the Klan. The Klan’s influence far exceeds its numbers because government leaders and agencies have adopted important parts of the Klan’s violently racist program.

The best example I know of this is my own bitter experience. Almost exactly 20 years ago, on November 3, 1979, I was shot in the head by Klansmen and Nazis when they attacked an anti-Klan demonstration in Greensboro, North Carolina. This Klan mass murder is known as the Greensboro Massacre. Although five young labor and community leaders were killed in broad daylight in front of cameras from four TV stations, the Klan and Nazi killers were acquitted in two trials by all-white juries. (The Greensboro Massacre was one of the first examples of Klan and Nazi cooperation since World War II. This unholy coalition shows what the Klan is all about.) It came out that agents of the Greensboro Police Department, the FBI and the federal government’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms conspired with the killers to carry out the Greensboro Massacre. A government agent recruited, organized and led the caravan of cars that carried out the Massacre. Government lawyers who prosecuted the killers did their best to keep the evil role of government agents a secret.

Letting the Klan killers go free in Greensboro sent a green light to the



Greensboro Daily News

Nelson Johnson kneels by slain comrade following KKK/Nazi murder of five leftists, union organizers, November 1979.

Klan that racist murders would be allowed. This was followed for several years by a rampage of Klan activity throughout North Carolina. Giving the Klan the green light to march in NYC today will only invite more racist actions.

In New York, like in cities throughout the U.S., the influence of the Klan’s racist message can be felt. In too many cases, police harass and kill young people of color for no other reason than they are not white, and they are protected by Mayor Giuliani and other city officials. Such police and city officials might as well be in the Klan; their behavior is no different. They act on a deeply-held belief that the value of a black life is less than the value of a white life.

Only an alert, well-organized and strong citizenry can stop these outrages. And a necessary step in that process is to put a stop to the Klan and all it stands for. Keep up the good work. Stay strong and pay close attention. And keep on organizing. Thank you for your time and attention.



WV Photo

10 November 1979: Spartacist-initiated labor/black mobilization stopped KKK from “celebrating” Greensboro Massacre in Detroit.

“tolerance” for the KKK! We say *zero tolerance* for fascist killers!

Also out there, there is a group that goes by the name of Progressive Labor. We warn that PL’s brand of communism can’t tell the difference between a trade union mobilization like this one and church gatherings—even sinister and reactionary ones like the Promise Keepers. True to their program of appealing to the most backward elements in society, PL joins the gay haters like Jesse Helms, the Catholic Church and Pat Robertson in grotesquely proclaiming homosexuality to be a disease! When Matthew Shepard was murdered, they ran an article which described gay rights groups as just another wing of what they call the fascist ruling class. This is gross.

Wally Rosenthal

Member, NY Metro Area Postal Union

I haven’t gone postal yet. Wednesday night we passed a resolution which I’ll read to you [see page 15]. This was passed unanimously in a local representing about 12,000 workers. A few thoughts that I would add is that we have to beware

of the wolves in sheep’s clothing. We know about Gingrich and Buchanan and Giuliani—the obvious fascists. If we were in Germany 60 years ago, most of the words and things that we hear in the newspapers and from politicians would be the same as that of the Nazis.

But the bigger fascists are the ones who don’t come out and say it like that. They’re the Democrats like Clinton with his drive-by bombings in Iraq and Colombia and elsewhere around the world. It’s the fascists like Gore and Bradley who are going to talk about doing nice things for poor people, getting jobs for everybody, raising the minimum wage a dollar. Goddamn, if any of them had to live on, you know, \$5.15 or \$6 or \$7 an hour, forget it, they would go absolutely stark raving mad. So, let’s not be fooled by the phony Democrats, most of whom are in Rockefeller’s hip pocket. Let’s not forget the Klan in blue. So, I’ll just stop by saying, “The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan: they’re all a part of the bosses’ plan!”

Maureen McDougall

NYU Womyn’s Center

We are New York University’s feminist organization dedicated to the radical dismantling of gender, sex, race, sexuality and class hierarchies. We are here as feminists to contend that all of these isms—racism, sexism, homophobia, heterosexism and classism as well as all the other isms—are all related, they do not exist in a vacuum. We abhor the murderous history of lynching, burning crosses, and racial terrorism that is the Ku Klux Klan. And we must remember that the KKK not only represents racism, but also all these other forms of bigotry. And we will not

tolerate the KKK in our city. And we will not tolerate them in their sheets. And we will not tolerate them in their white shirts and ties. And we will not tolerate them in their blue suits hiding behind badges on our streets. We will not tolerate their elected counterpart Rudy Giuliani. We say: Racist, sexist, anti-gay—KKK, go away!

Larry Cutler

AFSCME DC 37 Retirees

When I came here, I was a little nervous coming to this thing. I wasn’t afraid of the KKK, believe me, I was afraid of the KKK in blue. Because the KKK in

my experience is shit and weak. I was in a demonstration in Scotland, Connecticut in 1980—long time ago—and we destroyed them physically with clubs. What I’ve been part of, it’s always been “Death to the KKK,” not “Stop the KKK.” By this time already in this particular battle, because this has been a battle, the KKK has already won because of all the exposure they’ve gotten.

Now, behind all of that is, as was said before, is the big boys and I don’t mean by big boys little puny Giuliani or little Clinton or little Pataki. You’ve got to think in terms of Goldman-Sachs, you’ve

continued on page 14



WV Photo

Wally Rosenthal

Just Out!

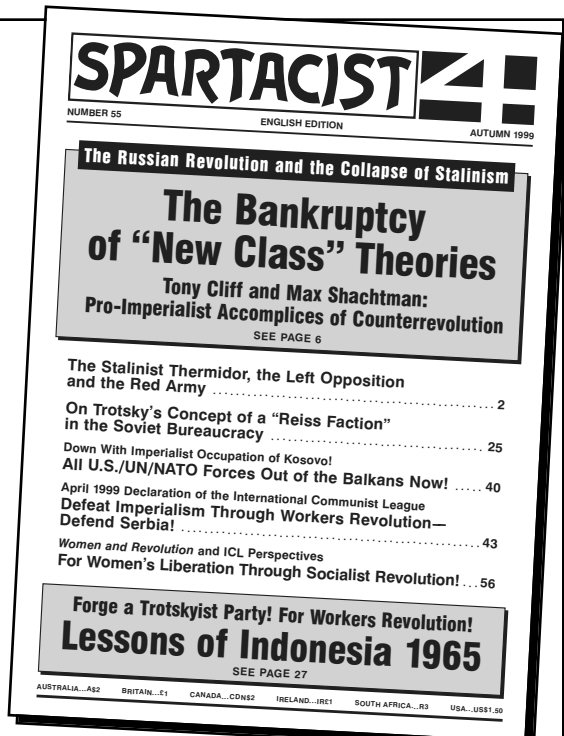
Spartacist
(English Edition)

No. 55
Autumn 1999
(56 pages)

\$1.50

Spartacist is
sent to all WV
subscribers.

Make checks payable/mail to:
Spartacist Publishing Co.
Box 1377 GPO
New York, NY 10116



Germany...

(continued from page 16)

capitalists are very aware that they are dealing with a potentially powerful opponent, as the defensive struggles in Italy, France, Spain and Germany in the past years have shown. That is why nearly everywhere in Europe the bourgeoisie is counting on social-democratic/ex-Stalinist parties to govern, or on popular fronts—alliances between bourgeois workers parties and purely bourgeois parties—which are supposed to shove these attacks down the workers’ throats. Lenin aptly described parties such as the SPD, the PDS, the British Labour Party or the French Socialist Party of Lionel Jospin as bourgeois workers parties: thoroughly bourgeois in the outlook and program of their leadership but based on the working class. As long as the proletarian base places its trust in “its” party, these parties are especially suited to chain the workers to their own exploiters.

Our strategic goal as communists is to raise the consciousness of the most



AFP

Schröder regime brutally suppressed protests against Turkey’s arrest of Kurdish PKK leader Öcalan in February.

advanced workers so that they break with the bourgeoisie’s lackeys in the workers movement, and to win the workers to a revolutionary program. Against the attempt of the German bourgeoisie to create a Deutschmark-dominated Europe, we say: “Down with Maastricht! Down with racist Fortress Europe! For a workers Europe!”

Governments formed by the SPD & Co. are capitalist governments through and through, which manage the interests of the bourgeoisie. Especially in Germany, where the working class, still heavily organized, has not yet tested its strength in direct class battle, the bourgeoisie of Auschwitz definitely needed the SPD/Green government in order to carry out its war in the Balkans relatively trouble free. This was the Bundeswehr’s first combat mission since 1945 and the end of World War II, when Hitler’s troops slaughtered a fifth of the Balkan population. As the *Berliner Zeitung* (25 March)

noted: “That a red-green government sent units of the Bundeswehr into a military venture for the first time since the founding of the Federal Republic saved the country from an unproductive ideological and political conflict.”

Within the working class, there were audible protests against this war. On May Day, for example, union leaders who supported the government were booed down. The International Communist League intervened on May 1 with a statement headlined: “Defeat Imperialism Through Workers Revolution—Defend Serbia!” While giving not one iota of political support to the capitalist government of Milosevic, we stated that, during this war, the independence of Kosovo was subordinated to defending Serbia against imperialist attack, and that the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) “freedom fighters” were acting simply as NATO’s pawns and ground troops. We participated, as did all sections of the ICL, in the campaign for material aid to Yugoslav workers organized by the Italian COBAS (Rank and File Committee) at Milano’s Alfa Romeo auto plant. Despite deep political differences with COBAS as well as with IG Medien and other unionists in Germany who organized a similar campaign for workers in Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, we participated in the spirit of the united front: March separately, strike together. This campaign gave workers the possibility of acting concretely against their “own” imperialist rulers in defense of Yugoslav workers.

The Balkans War and the PDS

The PDS, supported by most of the pseudo-left, worked overtime to channel and control protests against the war. Its predecessor, the SED, sat atop the DDR deformed workers state, holding political power as a parasitic Stalinist caste. Its program of “socialism in (half) a country” was *counterposed and hostile* to a class-struggle perspective. They promoted the lie of a “progressive wing” of imperialism or so-called “peace loving” capitalist countries with which they could “coexist.” Thus they always had a program of class collaboration and, after leading the counterrevolution and delivering over the DDR, they were indistinguishable from an ordinary social-democratic party. The PDS always and everywhere stressed its goal of backing the SPD in administering capitalism—and they proved their support in Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. They are infamous for seeking “debates” with fascists and showing “understanding” for racist slogans.

The PDS attempted to distinguish itself as an “antiwar party” wielding nationalist slogans against the American-dominated NATO alliance. They called for “UN peace troops without participation of the NATO states, presently the aggressors” (*Junge Welt*, 12-13 May). *Thus they called for the intervention of imperialist troops*, only under the UN, with greater weight accorded German imperialism and with Russia given a say too! The PDS also called for the return to Kosovo of “observers” from the European-dominated Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Its activities are directly controlled by German imperialism, which played a key role in instigating the all-sided nationalist bloodbath in the Balkans when they pushed for Croatian and Slovenian independence in 1991 as part of their campaign to destroy the former Yugoslav workers state through capitalist counterrevolution.

The PDS is not an “opposition” but is desperately seeking to sell its ties to East Europe and the former Soviet Union to its new masters, the German bourgeoisie. PDS foreign policy spokesman Gehrcke played the German national card and warned of “irreparable damage for Germany, if the relationship to Russia worsens on account of the Kosovo war” (PDS press release, 28 May). This represents the perspective of a sector of the German bourgeoisie, also pushed by the Lafontaine wing of the SPD—more strongly anti-American and for an alliance with

As SPD’s bourgeois Green coalition partner faced near split over German participation in war against Serbia, cops attacked antiwar protester outside Green Party congress in May.

AFP



capitalist Russia. It is designed to give German imperialism access to Russia’s atomic arsenal and the oil of the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea, thus making Germany independent from U.S. imperialism. Even before the war, Gernot Erler, vice chairman for foreign policy of the SPD fraction in Bonn, accused Washington of “violating the interests of Europe with its ‘numerous affronts’ against Moscow.... It is in the interest of Europe to actively draw in Moscow, for example in Kosovo” (*Frankfurter Rundschau* on-line, 29 January). And so it happened: it was to Schröder that Chernomyrdin reported on his negotiations with Milosevic. In this way, Germany will be positioned to play a global role and compete internationally with the U.S. These interimperialist rivalries will lead to a Third World War if the working class doesn’t stop the imperialists by overthrowing them through socialist revolution.

Most of the pseudo-left readily took up the hypocritical imperialist war cry for “poor little Kosovo,” happy to find a reason to support their own government (see WV No. 715, 11 June). Today, the PDS—and the German bourgeoisie—have partly reached their goals: the bombing has stopped, imperialist troops have occupied the devastated Balkans, the official currency in Kosovo is the D-mark. Minister of war Rudolf Scharping said, “The Bundeswehr is going to have to remain in the Balkans for years” (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 4-5 September). From the moment imperialist troops began rolling into Kosovo, murderous terror against the remaining Serbian and Roma (Gypsy) populations began, including the massacre of whole families. We say: Down with the imperialist occupation of Kosovo! Bundeswehr, NATO, UN, OSCE out of the Balkans!

For a Class-Struggle Fight Against Racist State Terror and Fascists

Within the working class, indignation is directed against the cuts in social wel-

fare which hit the most vulnerable in society: women, immigrants, the elderly. The ÖTV bureaucrats worked overtime to disorganize protests against hospital closures in Berlin, which are planned primarily in areas such as Kreuzberg where many immigrants live. But demonstrations took place anyway, reflecting the anger at the base of the union. Together with the governing SPD/CDU coalition in Berlin, the ÖTV bureaucrats have taken direct responsibility for the closure of hospitals and layoffs (*Berliner Zeitung*, 16 September). In numerous other parts of the now-privatized public sector, top union bureaucrats like former Berlin ÖTV chairman Lange moved into top management positions, as at the BEWAG electricity provider in Berlin.

Two-tier wage systems are rapidly spreading. To soothe their base, the union leadership is appealing to the SPD-run capitalist government to change regulations. These appeals are supposed to sow illusions in the government and thus disarm the working class. In contrast, UPS Teamsters in the U.S., who largely work part-time doing back-breaking jobs for miserable wages, demonstrated in their strike two years ago that through class struggle the working class can win some gains against the two-tier wage system. As our comrades of the Spartacist League/U.S. wrote in a special WV supplement on the UPS strike: “A genuine workers party must be based on the understanding that only through their mass mobilization in struggle can the workers fight for their interest and in defense of all oppressed.”

Mass unemployment provides the Nazis with fertile soil and is a key tool of the bourgeoisie for suppressing working-class militancy. The situation cries out for a real drive to organize the unorganized—especially “illegal” workers, foreign workers, immigrants and women—to cut through the racism and nationalism. Not a class-collaborationist “Alliance for Jobs,” but a class-struggle fight for full



P. Glaser

Capitalist counterrevolution turned former East Germany into a wasteland, devastating Leuna chemical works (above) and many other industries. Unemployment line in eastern city of Dessau.

Westrich/Plus49



union wages, benefits and protection for all! Down with the two-tier wage system! Equal pay for equal work! Combat unemployment through the fight for a shorter workweek at no loss in pay! To realize even the most basic right—the right to a job at decent pay—leads directly to challenging the capitalist profit system. In the 1938 Transitional Program—a system of demands linking the felt needs of the workers to the fight for proletarian state power—Trotsky noted:

“The question is one of guarding the proletariat from decay, demoralization and ruin. The question is one of life or death of the only creative and progressive class, and by that token of the future of mankind. If capitalism is incapable of satisfying the demands inevitably arising from the calamities generated by itself, then let it perish.”

One of the first acts of the SPD/Green government was a new law on immigration which opened up many for deportation. The SPD “leftist” Lafontaine—one of the originators of “flexible” working conditions in the interest of the bosses—was still a member of the government when this law was passed. He was able to bring to bear his own experience as long-time prime minister of Saarland, where he was responsible for a wave of deportations and racist measures against Roma. Full citizenship rights for all immigrants! For trade-union mobilizations against deportations!

Naked racist state terror—from the torture and murder of asylum-seekers during deportations to the campaign against the Kurds following the arrest of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Öcalan in February—serves to split and intimidate the multiethnic working class. Arbitrary racist measures, such as banning Muslim women wearing headscarves from teaching—most recently carried out by the SPD minister for education in Lower Saxony—serve the same purpose. Shortly after coming to office, Schröder vowed to protect the interests of industry and the state against the claims of the few surviving people who had been slave laborers in Nazi concentration and death camps. Safwan Eid, a victim of a Nazi arson attack in which ten people died three years ago in Lübeck, was tried twice, while the Nazis captured near the site of the crime with burn marks on their bodies are free. Trials are taking place of Kurds who survived a massacre at the Israeli consulate in Berlin, when four Kurds protesting the kidnap arrest of Öcalan were cold-bloodedly murdered by security guards. The workers movement must fight to beat back the charges and for the immediate release of all the arrested Kurds. Down with the ban on the PKK and Kurdish organizations!

“Legal” state terror encourages the terror of Nazi gangs on the streets. Nearly every day there is a murderous attack on immigrants; Nazi marches, protected by cops, take place regularly. Appeals to the SPD to do something against the Nazis are as impotent as they are suicidal. The

SPD *rules* the bourgeois state which holds the fascists in reserve as thugs against the workers movement, and will always use its cops against the left.

We stand for worker/immigrant mobilizations to stop the Nazis! The working class is the only force which can put an end to fascist terror and the capitalist system which produces fascism, war and misery. Because of their backgrounds and daily experience of racist government policies, immigrant workers are in general less susceptible to social-democratic lies and will play a key role in this struggle. German and immigrant workers will either advance together or they will be beaten back separately. In order to mobilize the power of the multiethnic working class, a revolutionary party is required which brings communist consciousness into the working class.

The SPD, the Unions and Revolutionary Leadership

The political scientist Bodo Zeuner said at an IG Metall political forum: “The qualitative leap in 1959 [the Gödesberg Program, where the SPD took the label “people’s party” instead of “workers party”] meant the SPD’s turn away from the traditions of Marxism. The qualitative leap in 1999, if I am not completely mistaken, consists of the SPD’s turn away from the tradition of the workers movement altogether” (*Frankfurter Rundschau*, June 17).

But the qualitative leap took place in **1914**, when the SPD sent the working class to the slaughter of imperialist war. In Lenin's words, the SPD leadership became "labor lieutenants of capital." Rosa Luxemburg pointed sharply to "the stinking corpse of Social Democracy." In 1918-19 the SPD leadership joined with the fascist Freikorps to smash the German revolution and murder the leadership of the young Communist Party, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. In the following years they unleashed the Freikorps and Wehrmacht to terrorize the working class and drown it in blood.

In the above article, Zeuner asks whether the unions could champion the “political tradition of the workers movement” independently, “without affiliation to any particular party.” The “political tradition” which Zeuner has in mind is that of the SPD, of class collaboration. Lenin described the material base for such politics—the labor bureaucrats, the labor aristocracy, a privileged layer paid with the crumbs from the capitalists’ table. Within the pre-1914 SPD, it was precisely the union bureaucracy and some of the parliamentarians who constituted the right-wing base of the party.

We stand in the *revolutionary* tradition of the workers movement. We know that the trade-union bureaucracy is tied intimately, by thousands of sticky threads, to the SPD/PDS and the bourgeois state. The IG Bau [builders union] boss Wiesehügel, Mr. Minimum Wage himself, pushed for cop and vigilante groups



Spartakis

**Spartakist
Youth protest
at Humboldt
University on
October 7 against
fascist desecration
of Jewish cemetery
in Berlin: “SPD and
PDS Racist State
Terror Paves Way
for Nazis!” “For
Worker/Immigrant
Mobilizations
Against Anti-Semitic
Nazi Gangs!”**

to police construction sites to hunt for “illegal” workers. Using this witchhunt against workers from other countries he shoves backward sections of his base into the arms of the fascists. Wiesehügel is considered a “left” SPDer.

The trade-union leadership also coddles the police “union.” The police are the armed agents of the capitalists, the professional strike-breakers and thugs. We say: Police are not “colleagues” and not part of the workers movement! Cops out of the DGB trade-union federation!

When members of the HBV (70 percent of them women) took to the streets in militant demonstrations against the rapidly worsening working conditions, the HBV bureaucrats channeled this into a campaign to uphold the reactionary *Ladenschlussgesetz* (law on shop closing hours). We are for the abolition of this law, which tightens the straitjacket of the bourgeois family and the double oppression of women who bear the main load of housework and are now regimented to do this work during certain hours. This law has nothing to do with “defense” of the workers and everything to do with the attempt of the trade-union bureaucracy to restrain their membership from an organized fight against the capitalists. Trotsky wrote in his 1940 article “Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay” that capitalism “demands of the reformist bureaucracy and the labor aristocracy, who pick up the crumbs from its banquet table, that they become transformed into its political police before the eyes of the working class.” He noted:

“The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of the workers and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat.”

1989-90: For a Red Soviet Germany!

The unfolding political revolution in 1989-90 against the Stalinist bureaucratic caste of the DDR showed the potential power of the working class. Our international party intervened as the revolutionary leadership against the counterrevolution for the revolutionary reunification of Germany through socialist revolution in the West and proletarian political revolution in the East—for a red Soviet Germany. Our program rapidly gained a foothold and was eagerly received by workers who sought a revolutionary socialist perspective. In January 1990, we initiated a united-front demonstration against the fascist desecration of the Soviet war memorial in East Berlin's Treptow Park, which was taken up by the SED-PDS under the pressure of its factory base. A quarter of a million people came out to a proletarian, pro-Soviet, internationalist demonstration, where the counterposed programs of Stalinism and Trotskyism were clearly presented. From the platform, a Spartakist speaker called for workers and soldiers soviets and exposed the sellout politics of the Stalinists and the SPD, the "Trojan horse of counterrevolution." Alarmed by this show of prole-

tarian power, after Treptow the bourgeoisie and their SPD lackeys began an onslaught to push through counterrevolution. And the PDS, frightened by the spectre of a proletarian political revolution which would sweep it away, initiated its own offensive—under the slogan of then-DDR prime minister, Hans Modrow: “Germany one fatherland”—and *led the counterrevolution*. Today these traitors pose as an “opposition” in the Fourth Reich, which came into existence with their help.

The Pseudo-Left, the Russian Question and the SPD Government

We Trotskyists fought for the defense and extension of the revolutionary gains of the working class embodied in the proletarian property forms of the former workers states in the Soviet Union and East Europe. We stood for the unconditional military defense of the bureaucratically degenerated and deformed workers states against imperialist aggression and internal counterrevolution. We fought for proletarian political revolution, the mobilization of the working class to seize power from the Stalinist bureaucracy. Today, this is an urgent task for revolutionaries in the remaining deformed workers states of China, Vietnam, Cuba and North Korea. James P. Cannon, founder of Trotskyism in the U.S., stated: "The Russian question has been and remains the question of the revolution." Proving this in the negative are practically all other groups on the left, who again and again sided with their own bourgeoisies against the Soviet Union, supported the counterrevolution in the DDR and today, as satellites of the SPD, peddle the "death of communism" in one way or another.

This is the case with the Gruppe Arbeitermacht (GAM), affiliated to the British Workers Power group. They like to talk about “revolutionary program” and a “revolutionary party” even as they support the war aims of their “own” bourgeoisie. But what is their aim? “We are prepared, together with SPD and PDS supporters, to put pressure on ‘their’ parties and fight against the capitalists.” They whine about Lafontaine’s “inglorious capitulation” and turn, as all the pseudo-leftists do, begging to the government: “Now the promises must be implemented.” And then the main point: they stand for “building SPD/PDS governments.... they are bourgeois workers parties, bourgeois workers governments, which they build” (“A Revolutionary Action Program for the BRD [German Federal Republic],” June 1999).

With one stroke of the pen the GAM disappears Marxist theory: the state is an organ of class rule. This government is a popular front—a governing coalition of the SPD bourgeois workers party and the bourgeois Greens. But even if the SPD/PDS were ruling alone, they would still be *administering the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie*. They would still be organizing the “special bodies of armed men” and the other institutions that protect the

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Speeches...

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got to think in terms of Big Oil. You’ve got to think in terms of old money Rockefellers. That’s what you’ve got to



WV Photo

Larry Cutler

think of—old money/new money. And I hear about this workers party. Well, just voting in a workers party is impossible. It is, in my opinion, nonsense. You need an illegal party. So I say fight for communism, fight for the working class.

Ed Kartsen

Spartacist League

Wall Street fears you. They fear you because they know what they’ve been doing to you. They know they have been sharply increasing the cost of living, that they have been making super-profits off

of your exploitation. They know what they’ve been doing to you, so they want to make sure that you are not in a position to stop the Ku Klux Klan. They want to use the Ku Klux Klan to support their system when it is no longer possible to use the powerful police forces that they have deployed nationally in order to protect their profit system. They know that they have been narrowly escaping an international financial crisis. They know that their profit system has created poverty and misery for thousands and millions of people. They know that this exploitation is going to create conditions that are so explosive that this police system will not be able to contain it.

The Democratic Party—Stringer, Sharpton—have been colluding with the city to allow the Klan to get away with this. Now Al Sharpton has gone so far as to file a friend of the court brief on behalf of the Ku Klux Klan. Can you believe this? This lineup of people from Sharpton to Giuliani to the Democratic Party to the Central Labor Council—those people who want to allow the Ku Klux Klan to “speak,” allow the Ku Klux Klan to organize—must be exposed. You can see from this lineup why labor has been kept down in the city.

See, Al Sharpton has very skillfully developed the image of being someone who’s against police terror. But now he’s exposed as defender of the Ku Klux Klan. Al Sharpton channels the just rage that



WV Photo

Spartacist League speaker Ed Kartsen addresses mass labor/black mobilization.

Germany...

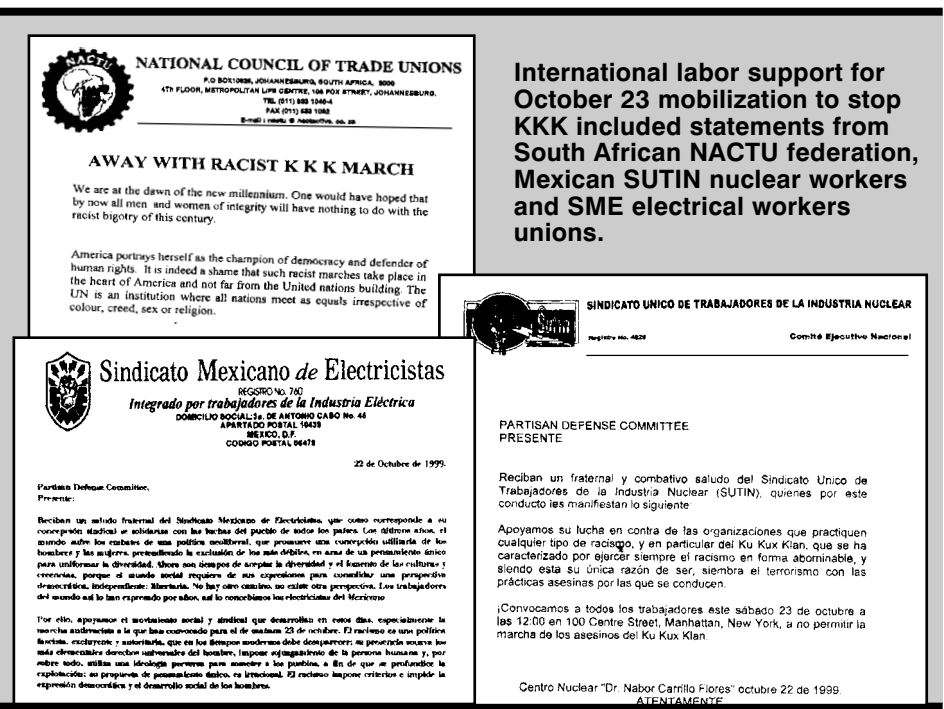
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bourgeoisie’s class rule and property. As Marx put it after the experience of the Paris Commune of 1871: “The working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes.” The GAM tries to lie to workers about this simple truth. They are no different from the other wretched “lefts” whose worldview begins and ends with the Social Democracy.

Linksruck, a reformist group allied with Tony Cliff’s British Socialist Workers Party, was buried for years in the SPD. Today it promotes building “a new socialist party” in order to defend “the victory of 27 September 1998”—the election of the SPD government! They erect a *class line* between “Schröder’s CDU politics” and the SPD “lefts” and dub this “civil war in the SPD.” They do this to cover the real class line between the bourgeois program of the SPD leadership (including their beloved Lafontaine) and the working-class base in order to prevent the base from splitting from the SPD. They distort the real meaning of civil war—class war of the workers against the bourgeoisie—which, from their parliamentary outlook, would of course be an abomination. They give Lafontaine and Gysi good tips: “Lafontaine sought to carry out politics against the bosses on the parliamentary plane. His mistake lay in not

mobilizing the forces which could have pushed through such politics.... Strategically, Gysi is lumbering into the same trap as Lafontaine.” Linksruck now wants to iron out this “mistake” and describes in classic reformist jargon how the working class can serve as a mass base for maneuvers: “Only the working class can force reforms in the crisis” (*Linksruck*, August 1999).

On September 4, a congress of the “Initiative to Network Union Leftists” took



people had against the death squad execution of Amadou Diallo into the Democratic Party and into a “ten-point program.” This program calls for a raise for the cops. When was the last time you got a raise? Well, Sharpton’s not working for you, he’s not working for your interests. He wants more effective cops. He wants cops who more effectively bust your strikes and terrorize your communities. Sharpton and Stringer have exposed

themselves as the enemies of labor and the enemies of all those who are the potential victims of the Ku Klux Klan.

Al Sharpton defends the Ku Klux Klan. This sharply contrasts with what Malcolm X stood for. Both we of the Spartacist League and Malcolm X called for organized self-defense to stop Ku Klux Klan violence against civil rights workers. Malcolm X would have had hatred and contempt for what Sharpton is doing. Hatred and contempt for the defenders of the Ku Klux Klan.

The loyal democratic opposition in Germany lulled to sleep the working people and allowed fascism to come to power. We say, the working class needs a party that would ensure that that never happens. Working-class militants need a political program and an organization to enable them to seize power and prevent the fascists from seizing power and destroying the workers movement. And when I say seize power, I don’t mean seize the existing instruments of the capitalist state. I mean a complete elimination of the institutions of capitalist rule and its replacement by formations based on workers rule, on the factories and on the industries.

Labor must struggle for its freedom, and that struggle for freedom is linked to the struggle for black liberation. It is linked to the struggle of gays for their rights. It is linked to the struggle of women for their rights. It is linked to the struggle of all those who are oppressed by capitalism.



Spartakist

Germany, 1989-90: ICL called for “A Red Germany of Workers Councils in a Socialist Europe” in fight for proletarian political revolution, against capitalist counterrevolution.

zation of the working class, the overthrow of imperialism and a revolutionary multiethnic workers party. The PDS led the counterrevolution and thereby laid the basis for German imperialism to drive ahead the destruction of Yugoslavia which led to the nationalist massacres. When our comrade attacked the “leftists” in attendance for dancing on the graves of the DDR and the Soviet Union and for celebrating the victory of “democracy,” it really hit a nerve. There was loud unrest and repeated interruptions by the chairman.

Our strategic task as revolutionaries is to split the working-class base from the pro-capitalist SPD/PDS leadership, centrally through a struggle to replace the union misleaders with a class-struggle, revolutionary leadership. The working class must be transformed from a class *in* itself—the object of capitalist exploitation—to a class *for* itself—conscious of the need to overthrow capitalist rule through proletarian revolution. As the experience of the Russian Revolution proved positively, and subsequent experience has proved negatively, this will not happen spontaneously, but only through the active intervention of a revolutionary vanguard party that fights for nothing short of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is the fight to which the Spartakist Workers Party, as a section of the International Communist League, is committed. We fight for new October Revolutions worldwide!■

When the U.S. wanted to bomb Kosovo, they claimed they were out to stop ethnic cleansing. Well, they want to protect the KKK. They have no intention of stopping ethnic cleansing. Workers can only win by understanding that the struggles of American workers are the same as the struggles of workers of all countries. Workers throughout the world are our brothers. The capitalists throughout the world are our enemies. Workers must stand in solidarity with Puerto Rico, and fight for the right of self-determination for Puerto Rico. They must fight to defend those countries where capitalism has been overthrown—Cuba, China, Vietnam, North Korea. They must fight to defend them against imperialism and capitalist counterrevolution.

The only way to permanently stop the fascists is to take industry away from these corrupt, incompetent racist exploiters and rebuild society on a socialist economic plan. Our fight is for a workers future, a fight to transform this massive mobilization of strength into a class-conscious party for a workers revolution. Stop the Klan, this is the hour—Labor and blacks have got the power!

Sayfullah Ei

City College of New York

We’ve come here to speak on behalf of all the people who’ve been murdered, lynched and raped by the KKK. We’d like that to be remembered above everything else—all the people who have been



Sayfullah Ei

murdered. As members of the media at City College, we are not against freedom of speech. But this is not an organization of people who have religious or political theologies. This is an organization of people who have massacred innocent people, children, women, for centuries on end. And this is a city of immigrants and people of color. This is our home and I am a representative of City College, home of immigrants. And we are here to say you don’t come in our home. We will not tolerate it any more.

And on behalf of all our ancestors who are standing here today, we will not allow them to walk through this city without seeing all these faces. If you think I’m a n----r, come and look at a n----r, ’cause you’re going to have to look at me if you’re going to walk through my home. And you’ll have to look at me for the rest of your life,

Postal Workers Support Labor/Black Mobilization

The following is an excerpted statement by Mark Sobel, president of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 294, which was read to the anti-Klan mobilization by branch member Gloria Lum.

This is New York City and I say that with passion! The KKK must never be allowed to utter one paragraph, one sentence, not even one word in New York City. This is a **union town!** This is a **multicultural, diverse town!**

I speak to you today with a personal message. As a local union president in one of the most culturally diverse sections of New York City, Flushing, Queens, the letter carriers I represent demonstrate the care and concern to all walks of life, to all religions, to all nationalities, to all colors of skin. In August of this year, our brother, Joseph Iletto, was gunned down, murdered by a racist anti-Semite in Los Angeles. All brother Joseph was doing was his job, delivering mail, when he was murdered because of his being a “non-white, working for the Federal government.” Brother Joseph was killed by the same people that wear hoods and burn crosses and splatter blood on the diaspora of America. To give these people a forum and call it First Amendment Rights is a desecration of the Bill of Rights and an insult to every working man and woman in our society.

We rise and denounce all who have propagated this invasion. May this demonstration be the impetus to drive the rodents back to where they belong. Thank you.

* * *

The following are excerpts from a resolution passed by the NY Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) on October 21 and read to the mobilization by NYMAPU member Wally Rosenthal.

Whereas, racism serves the interests

of a relatively small group of wealthy individuals, while dividing and weakening the labor movement by creating barriers between different groups of workers; and

Whereas, the KKK’s claim of the right of free speech is just a smoke-screen to hide the reality of the KKK’s long history (right up to the present) of racist actions, from lynchings and other murders to acts of violence, vandalism, etc.;

Therefore, be it resolved that New York Metro Area Postal Union go on record in strong opposition to racism in general, and against the racist acts and ideas of the Ku Klux Klan in particular; and

Be it resolved that NYMAPU call on postal workers, and others, to join protests against the KKK starting at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 23 near the State Supreme Court Building at 60 Centre Street in lower Manhattan.

because we are a part of this country, and we’re here to stay—and like everyone else, we have helped build this country. And we are here to tell the KKK that you are cowards and if you would like to come to Washington Heights, if you would like to come to Harlem, and if you’d like to come to Brooklyn, we are waiting! We are waiting! Because City College is saying that we are a community of warriors. If you don’t like us, and you’d like to attack us, come to our real home. Harlem is waiting, KKK! Harlem is waiting!

Roy Rollin

College Voice, College of Staten Island

Brothers and sisters, comrades, and friends—it’s midnight in the 20th century but the fascists still think it’s springtime for Hitler. Well, we in the working class of New York City have had enough. Enough of the cutbacks. Enough of the layoffs. Enough of the givebacks. Enough of the austerity. Enough of getting rid of open admissions at CUNY. Enough of the racist death penalty. Enough of slave-labor workfare. Enough of all the oppression and exploitation that the ruling capitalist Klan—capitalist class, that was not a Freudian slip—enough of the exploitation and oppression that our masters want to foist on us and will not shrink from using the fascist running dogs of the Klan and the Nazi Party and the rest of that wretched bunch to enforce.

This is a labor city. This city was built by black workers, Latino workers, immigrant workers from Germany, from Russia, Asian workers. Now the fascists, if you’ve read their baloney in the bourgeois press, say they are not a hate group, they are a “white civil rights group.” Well, I’m a white workingman and they do not stand for my rights or the rights of any workingman, white, black, or otherwise in this country. Because when the fascists

came to power in Germany, the first thing they did was to smash the Communist Party, smash the Social Democratic Party and smash every trade union and every institution of working-class struggle.

Carmen Quiñones

Democratic Party, 68th District

I am a Democratic district leader. But you the people elect me. And I have to represent you. That’s where I’m at. I am totally against the KKK. They cannot come in my yard. They cannot come over here and try to take my land that we struggled so hard to build. I have five generations alive. That is very rare. I’ll be damned if they’re going to come and lynch my grandchildren. We ain’t having it. You will not recruit in New York City. You take your recruits somewhere else because I’m here to tell you as a Latina woman, as an African woman, as a Taína woman, we will not stand for your bullshit in New York.

And the minute you come down here, we’re gonna let you know, because you know what? We ain’t scared no more. I got up this morning and I said Jesus Lord, give me the strength, give me the will power to stand up and say how much I hate this, how much I hate sometimes the freedom of speech because it



Carmen Quiñones

allows assholes like this to come here and try to dictate our lives. We ain’t standing for it no more, no matter what party you belong to. This is wrong and we’re not taking it no more. *Aquí no, basta ya*—enough is enough.

Farouk-Abdel Muhti

Palestine Aid Society

Death to the Ku Klux Klan! Death to fascism in the United States and all over the world! We are here to confront with you, with the American people in general, with the huge working class, with the Jewish and the African Americans, with the minorities, against the Ku Klux



Farouk-Abdel Muhti

Klan and against fascism in the United States. We have our own experience in Lebanon many years ago when fascism, the Falangists, tried to destroy the Arab struggle in Lebanon. At the same time we will not forget that fascism is allied to Zionism. Zionism continues today to combat and destroy the rights of the Palestinian people....

This speaker was interrupted by news that the KKK had appeared at 60 Centre Street, as the crowd began repeatedly chanting: “KKK, no way! You ain’t gonna march today!” ■

Black History and the Class Struggle No. 11

(August 1994)

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- Anti-Racist Protesters Confront KKK
- Build an Interracial Revolutionary Leadership!
- A Proletarian-Centered Strategy to Fight Fascism
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\$1 (48 pages)

Order from: Spartacist Publishing Co., Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116

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Germany: Workers Protest Social Democratic Austerity

Barely one year after Social Democrat (SPD) Gerhard Schröder, ruling in coalition with the bourgeois Green Party, replaced Helmut Kohl of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as German chancellor, popular support for the SPD has plunged to all-time lows and the party is riven with factional warfare. As over four million remain unemployed nationwide—and one in five jobless in the

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east—the SPD's proletarian base is in an uproar over Schröder's plans to slash social welfare programs and attack hard-won union gains.

The ruling coalition nearly collapsed earlier this year as opposition to German participation in the U.S./NATO war against Serbia brought the Greens, headed by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, to the brink of a split. In the months since, the SPD has suffered a string of humiliating defeats in regional elections, including in the industrial heartland of the Ruhr and most recently in Berlin, where the "left" social-democratic Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) made significant gains, winning over 40 percent of the vote in the former East Berlin and doubling its vote in the west. Gregor Gysi's PDS is the successor to the Stalinist Socialist Unity Party (SED) which ruled, and sold out, the East German (DDR) deformed workers state before its counterrevolutionary annexation by the German bourgeoisie in 1990.

Posturing as a left opposition within the SPD is Oskar Lafontaine, who quit as Schröder's finance minister in March and maintains a good deal of authority both at the base of the party and with sectors of the social-democratic DGB trade-union bureaucracy. Lafontaine has been seeking to ride the wave of discontent against the government, recently launching a new broadside against Schröder through the serialization of his autobiography, *The Heart Beats on the Left*.

We publish below, in abridged form, an article translated from *Spartakist* (No. 137, Autumn 1999), newspaper of the Spartakist Workers Party (SpAD), German section of the International Communist League. This article appeared under the headline, "Lafontaine/PDS: Strategists for German Imperialism—For Class Struggle Against the Capitalist SPD/Green Gov-



Workers in eastern German city of Erfurt protest mass unemployment. As millions remain jobless, workers around Germany have taken to the streets against SPD chancellor Schröder's austerity measures.

PDS Props Up Racist SPD Austerity Coalition

ernment! For a Revolutionary Multiethnic Workers Party!"

* * *

After the bloody bombing of the Balkans by the capitalist SPD/Green government, carried out in the interests of the German bourgeoisie, the government is again turning its attacks against the working class at home. Increasingly, however, the workers no longer believe that the SPD party of war is the "lesser evil" and that the class-collaborationist "Alliance for Jobs" has anything to do with their interests. The proletarian base of the SPD is in an uproar against the war policy and against the sharp cuts in social welfare, pensions and unemployment benefits.

The Trade, Bank and Insurance Workers Union (HBV) and ÖTV public workers have held militant demonstrations against Schröder's policies. In the first half of 1999, some 13,600 SPD members turned in their party membership books, over 3,000 in June alone (*Hamburger Abendblatt*, 11 September). In all the recent elections—Saarland, Brandenburg, Thuringia and Saxony—the SPD lost enormously. The losses in the regional elections in North Rhine-Westphalia hit the traditional SPD stronghold, where cities like Duisburg, Dortmund and Essen

have been run by the SPD almost uninterrupted since 1945. Workers simply didn't go to the polls, a direct protest against the Schröder/Fischer government.

The working class is starting to lose faith in its traditional party and is looking for a left alternative. This is a positive development and opens up important opportunities for revolutionaries, who fight to break the working class from its social-democratic misleadership and win it to a revolutionary perspective—for socialist revolution. This development powerfully confirms what we said before last year's Bundestag (parliamentary) election: "No Vote to the SPD, PDS—Racist Deporters and Imperialist Warmongers!" (*Spartakist* No. 133, Autumn 1998).

"As a loyal servant of the capitalists the SPD offers...to push through the demanded 'structural reforms': attacking the unions, dismantling the remaining social benefits, sending women back to 'home and hearth' and driving workers of Turkish, Kurdish, Yugoslav and Polish origin out of their jobs and out of Germany through chauvinist persecution and police terror."

The PDS is no alternative to the SPD. Bound to this capitalist society, it offers nothing but to pressure the SPD. After the elections in Thuringia, where the SPD came in third after the PDS (as also happened in Saxony two weeks later), PDS head Gregor Gysi advised Schröder: "Only a joint SPD/PDS project can change anything" (*Neues Deutschland*, 13 September).

Union bureaucrats like IG Metall metal workers top Klaus Zwickel, who fully supported the government's war policies, are now concerned about losing control of their membership. In the September issue of *Metall* he warned Schröder, who is depicted in bourgeois pose with a cigar on the cover: "It is still not too late to alter the present course." And at a reception for the union-organized members of the SPD Bundestag fraction, he threatened that "the unions could shift their basic stance toward the Social Democracy" (*Der Tagesspiegel*, 15 September).

A heated debate is going on within an alliance of SPD "lefts," the PDS, union

bureaucrats and pseudo-leftists about how the policy of the government can be changed in order to divert the discontent of the workers and rescue the government. Their fundamental conception and their whole politics rely on the SPD which rules this capitalist state and is supposed to reform it. But we communists state with Lenin that "The state is a product and a manifestation of the *irreconcilability* of class antagonisms.... According to Marx, the state is an organ of class *rule*, an organ for the *oppression* of one class by another" (*State and Revolution* [1917]). For exactly that reason, it is necessary to overthrow the capitalist state through a socialist workers revolution and to replace the system of exploitation and war through a planned economy based on workers soviets (councils). This is what the Russian workers did in the October Revolution under the Bolshevik leadership of Lenin and Trotsky. To lead the first successful proletarian revolution, it was absolutely essential to break from the centrist and reformist traitors in the workers movement and build a proletarian vanguard party.

The Result of Counterrevolution

Following the counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union and the deformed workers states of East Europe, the German bourgeoisie of the reunified Fourth Reich sees no boundaries, in the truest sense of the word, to its imperialist greed. Because there is no longer a need for the anti-Soviet Cold War alliance, interimperialist rivalries have rapidly intensified. To hold its own in competition with its imperialist rivals, the German bourgeoisie is trying to greatly increase the rate of profit. The "welfare state" was meant to counter working-class protest against the capitalist order following the victory of the Red Army in World War II and the establishment of the deformed workers states in East Europe, including the DDR. It has now served its purpose and is being rapidly dismantled.

But in spite of the triumphal braying over the "death of communism," the

continued on page 12



AP



DPA

German tank in Macedonia near Kosovo border during NATO war against Serbia. Seeking to head off growing working-class discontent, SPD "left" Oskar Lafontaine (top) resigned as Schröder's finance minister in March.