

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!**TRUTH** 

ORGAN OF THE TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATION OF THE USA • SECTION (SYMPATHIZING) OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

United Front to Prepare the General Strike

Reject the Chrysler Pact!



WIPE THOSE GRINS OFF THEIR FACES! Iacocca, Fraser and Miller celebrate the Chrysler wage freeze. Defeat their plans with a struggle for the united front for the general strike.

The Real Barbarians

The deal on the "hostages" has been settled. But the question of U.S. imperialism's attacks on the Iranian Revolution has not been settled. The fact that Ronald Reagan's inauguration is going on at the very conclusion of the "hostage" deal makes this question especially sharp.

A short while ago Reagan denounced the Iranians as "barbarians." This was more than just a chance remark, even more than pressure on the "hostage" negotiations. If we look at this statement carefully, we can determine what the orientation of American workers ought to be, both toward Reagan and toward the Iranian Revolution.

"Barbarians," says Reagan. And during the Vietnam War, Air Force General Curtis LeMay wanted to "bomb the North Vietnamese back into the Stone Age." There was napalm, massive bombing, "defoliation" and My Lai. Now Reagan says that Vietnam was a "noble cause."

Who are the real barbarians?

American imperialism, for its own counterrevolutionary reasons, screams about the cogs in its machine that have been hostages in Iran, about its agents — "diplomatic" and espionage — and Marin lifers who have nothing in common with American workers. But when did you hear any complaints about the thousands and thousands tortured and murdered under the Shah, whom Reagan and imperialism call "our old friend"?

Who are the real barbarians?

Last year alone, at least 9,000 peasants, workers and youth were murdered by Jimmy Carter's "human rights" junta in El Salvador. And now Carter, with Reagan's eager support, is renewing arms shipments to this junta.

Who are the real barbarians?

We do not have any confidence in the leadership of Iran. The followers of Khomeini are enemies of the development of the revolution. But we do agree with what Ayatollah Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament, said about Reagan and U.S. imperialism: that there is no other power in the world today with such an unbroken record of SAVAGERY!

There are Americans, some workers among them, who have put up yellow ribbons for the "hostages." If they do not break with the real barbarians, with Reagan and imperialism, they will have to change the color to blue, so that everyone will know them for the prize sheep they are!

DEFEND THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION!

U.S. TROOPS OUT OF THE PERSIAN GULF!

TRUTH

TRUTH



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SWP Forum and the United Front

The Socialist Workers Party sponsored a meeting called "Chrysler Blackmail — Does Giving in Save Jobs?" About 30 people attended, mostly militants of the SWP, including several of their unemployed autoworker militants.

Members of the Trotskyist Organization/USA, unemployed militants from UAW Local, along with militants from the UAW Committee for a Workers Candidate attended. They met beforehand to plan their efforts to win the Socialist Workers Party to build a United Front for a General Strike and an Emergency National Convention of the UAW. As well, they decided to propose a united front demonstration at the Chrysler Council meeting the next day, where the union leadership would begin the process of forcing the "pact" on the workers.

The contingent was allowed into the SWP meeting (for the first time in a long time) indicating, in part, a change in the political situation in the SWP. The main speaker was Pete Kelly, a long-time opponent in the UAW from Local 160, the GM Technical Center near Detroit.

David Heffelfinger, from UAW Local 174 spoke for the TO. He said he agreed with the many speakers who had raised the need for a labor party. He pointed out that such a party and labor party committees in the unions cannot become the party of the American working class without a mobilization and a combat. This is why, he

said, the TO is proposing to Kelly, to the Socialist Workers Party, to all working class organizations, to build a United Front for General Strike, against the Chrysler pact, against ALL collaboration between the unions and the corporations and their government. He ended by proposing a united front demonstration the following day at the Chrysler Council meeting.

Kelly responded by declaring basic agreement with the united front for a general strike.

The SWP responded later that it would discuss the proposal.

The militants of the SWP were clearly confused by the recent political developments (see article p. 5). They all raised the need for a labor party over and over but could make no proposals for action.

This was clear from their discussions with the militants of the UAW Committee for a Workers Candidate. One remarked later: "There were a lot of issues raised that were avoided," especially our proposals and the demonstration. And, when he mentioned to the SWPers, that he had questions about the meeting, they directed him to their bookstore!

Another militant remarked: "They had no enthusiasm for what they said. They approached me afterwards and asked me what I thought of the forum. I said I had just come to realize what socialism really is. They asked me to join the SWP, WITHOUT EVEN SAYING WHAT

THEIR PARTY STOOD FOR."

The contingent assembled the next day and demonstrated at the Chrysler Council meeting, with one militant being interviewed by a local radio station.

A meeting to continue this battle around the ratification meetings in the Detroit Chrysler locals is planned. The meeting will also take up how to continue the fight with the SWP.

F.V.

January 20, 1981

BULLETIN!

1100 Ford workers from Wayne Assembly plant (UAW Local 900) signed petitions which were presented today at Solidarity House, headquarters of the UAW. The petitions demand a SPECIAL CONVENTION OF THE UAW to organize a fight for NO CONCESSIONS.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
ORGANIZE THE GENERAL STRIKE!
EMERGENCY CONVENTION TO
PREPARE IT!

January 23, 1981

TRUTH

Federal Government Out of the Teamsters!

The situation developing at Local 299 of the Teamsters in Detroit is significant and must be the concern of all workers. The Federal government has ordered the holding of new elections there after reviewing charges filed by both the old Lins leadership and the present reformist leadership of Karagozian with the courts.

This situation, if not confronted by a mobilization of workers, will mean a strengthening of state intervention in the internal life of, and deeper regimentation of the unions.

Last May, court-supervised elections were held following the filing of charges by Karagozian against the openly reactionary Lins leadership. The Labor Department arm of the state happily stepped in to run the elections.

The Karagozian slate, a disguised bureaucratic grouping supported by reform caucuses in the union such as Concerned Teamsters and Teamsters for a Democratic Union, won. Beating the drum of "democracy" in the Teamsters, this grouping only wanted to set up its own authority to act as a brake on the forces within the union whose strong sentiments for independence and workers democracy in the union, if organized, could mean the end of bureaucratism and state intervention in the Teamsters.

Karagozian filed his charges against Lins during the last days of Carter's "human rights," believing that the state could be a "neutral arbitrator." Unfortunately for Karagozian, his own policy is bringing about his downfall.

After the election of Reagan and his "get tough" policy, the Labor Department is turning the tables and launching a new attack on the union in the form of new elections which could unseat Karagozian and re-establish Lins.

Following Karagozian's victory, Lins used Karagozian's methods and filed charges that Karagozian used illegal methods in getting elected (i.e., pro-Karagozian signs displayed in and outside a Detroit restaurant owned by a Local 299 member constituted illegal contributions of an employer). In retaliation, Karagozian filed charges that Lins and his slate denied membership lists to opposing candidates.

The state now has a freeway into the internal life of the union. Karagozian's puny response is to ask a Federal judge to please overturn the Department's order for a new vote.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE TEAMSTERS!

The Teamster ranks can take this situation into their own hands by electing a union committee to investigate the charges of fraud and illegalities. In making this struggle, it will be possible to independently decide the question of elections, to

y what methods must be used to
e the union and bring it under the
control of the workers.

BARBARA PUTNAM

January 18, 1981

Poland

Young militants of the International Young Guard/USA, attended a meeting on Poland on Sunday, January 18, in downtown Detroit. The meeting, captioned "An Eyewitness Report" had as its key speaker Joel Geier, a local teacher and centrist (from the virtually defunct Shachtmanite International Socialists) who recently spent several weeks in Poland.

Mr. Geier was more than obligatory in his praise of the Polish workers. However, he did little to shed any new light on the status of the Polish Revolution. He was even more successful in removing from his discussion the role of the American workers and youth in defending and advancing the struggles of the Polish workers and the workers and youth throughout Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Above all, Mr. Geier's report reflected national isolation, more than anything else, a fear of the world revolution.

There were a significant number of young people present at the meeting, most likely eager to understand the international importance of the Polish Revolution. A number of copies of International Young Guard were sold. It must be made clear to these youth that their role in the advance of the revolution is key. The revolutionary initiative of the youth is elemental in the defeat of the imperialist draft in the U.S. and the victory of the revolution throughout the globe.

R.T.

January 20, 1981

No Collaboration of Workers in Their Own Exploitation! Organize the General Strike

By DAVID HEFFELFINGER

The votes in the Presidential election were not even counted before a new accord was in the offing. Despite the statements by some labor leaders that it was time to "circle the wagons," the real basis for cooperation in Reagan's "new era" is already present in the participation of the unions in "reindustrialization" and re-doubled exploitation of the workers through plant closings, wage cuts and productivity drives — even before Reagan's election. Now it has become fashionable in the top rungs of the labor movement to find new schemes to involve the unions and the workers in their own exploitation.

Reagan was elected by the bureaucrats. The support in practice, of labor "statesmen" like Winpisinger of the IAM for the Democratic Party, after the convention of the IAM had passed a resolution for a discussion on the labor party, prepared the strong vote for Reagan among skilled and white workers and the massive abstention, more than 52 per cent, of workers, youth, and blacks. Of the 45 percent of the union vote that went to Reagan, less than 1 percent represented black workers, and though election figures are not generally broken down by age, it is safe to assume that a similar fraction of youth voted Reagan his "mandate."

The movement for the class independence of American workers and youth did not gain by the massive abstention in the elections, but it has not been defeated either. The fact that major union locals have passed resolutions for a labor party immediately after the elections, and the formation in Philadelphia of the National Black Independent Political Party shows the tremendous pressure from the ranks of the workers movement for a break of the unions and mass organizations from the capitalist parties and the collaboration with the anti-worker "austerity." The march of thousands in Washington and around the country on the birthday of Martin Luther King is much more than it was supposed to be — a march for a national holiday — it is the first massive response of blacks and the youth to Reagan's election and his repressive and racist plans.

The question for this movement is that it pass to the offensive and the ORGANIZATION of a combat for the independence of the unions and the workers from the schemes of pressure, compromise and collaboration. Only in combat can the ranks of the unions, the youth and blacks see an alternative. The Trotskyist Organization/USA proposes to all the tendencies who are for the construction of a workers party a united front of workers organizations to ORGANIZE THE GENERAL STRIKE to fight for a workers solution to the attacks on their rights and living conditions.

ORGANIZE THE GENERAL STRIKE!

Stop the plant closings and wage cuts!
For the sliding scale of hours and wages!

To fail to pose an alternative of active struggle is to submit to the "crisis" which the "experts" and economic cranks accept like the air we breathe, as something permanent and inevitable. All the forces of the unions must be put at the disposal of the workers in order to impose THEIR solutions. Nor can we wait for anyone to organize this fight for us; it must begin from our own initiatives — assemblies of the unions to mobilize the forces for the general strike, workers committees to OPEN THE BOOKS of the government and the capitalists and begin to organize WORKERS CONTROL.

This is fundamentally a political task of the ORGANIZATION of the consciousness of the workers — counterposed to a passive and spontaneist hope that the "threat" of Reagan alone will provoke a militant response of the working class.

The struggle for the workers party must be engaged around the preparation of the general strike in order for the current situation to pass from the retreat and maneuvers of the bureaucrats to the clarification of the program and nature of the party in the active struggle of the workers. And, at the same time, the initiatives toward the foundation of the workers party, THE historical problem of the workers revolution, is the central means to drive forward the movement for the class independence of the unions.

FOR A CONFERENCE OF UNION DELEGATES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORKERS PARTY, based on democratically elected delegates of union assemblies and delegates of the unemployed to clarify the program and combat for the general strike and the workers revolution.

FORGE OUR OWN ALLIANCES

The Polish revolution has opened up a turn in the international situation characterized by the the workers efforts to confront imperialism and Stalinism independently. The lessons of the Polish workers can be summed up for American workers as the necessity for the workers to forge their own alliances with theekers and oppressed of the world.

The rearmament of imperialism and the threats of the Kremlin against the Polish revolution cannot succeed except by isolating American workers and liquidating all the gains of the trade unions. The construction of the leadership of American workers and their efforts to take the initiative against the anti-worker plans of Reagan must base itself on the new advance of the revolution from Iran to Poland, taking on its shoulders the tasks of the defense and the extension of the revolution

through the preparation of the American Revolution.

The problem for the workers movement internationally and in the United States is that a large portion of its parties and leaders are rooted in the period of "peaceful coexistence" of imperialism and Stalinism. From their point of view the American revolution is "special," doomed to remain behind and backward. And from this perspective the organization of the general strike is anventure. For these tired old opportunists the Polish Revolution was equally absurd — until the force of revolution itself was upon them. But the tempo and rapid development of the revolutions in leaps and in great confrontations, which any fool can now see, clearly illustrates that there is no possibility for class relations in the United States to take a special, peaceful road separate from the blows of the revolution against imperialism and Stalinism, blows which push them to blindly attack the workers mobilizations. It is the new turn in the situation which necessitates the preparation TODAY of the revolution which is not only banging at the door of American workers but preparing to kick it down.

NO COOPERATION!

"Restructuring," a word which seemed so foreign even a year ago, has become a household word, certainly to auto workers. Now, not only in the name of profits, but in order to maintain the defense capabilities of American imperialism, it is necessary for the workers to accept the inevitable — mass layoffs whose numbers have now been estimated by Neil Goldschmidt, Carter's transportation secretary, as having to exceed more than half the present workforce in auto in order to properly "restructure" the industry. The attack is concentrated on this point; the auto-workers have been bombarded with the arguments of the bosses and the bureaucrats in the attempt to integrate the workers into their own exploitation.

Following every concession, concentrated on Chrysler workers, new ones are demanded with promises of a new upturn and a stabilization of the layoffs. It is sufficiently clear now that there is no stabilization — there is only the alternative of rejecting the entire framework of class collaboration and answering NO COOPERATION! to every new scheme of the government, the bosses and the bureaucrats to "save" the auto industry.

It is not the apathy of autoworkers which is responsible for the present situation, it is the fact that at every important moment their "leaders" have retreated. Witness the current renegotiated Chrysler pact, a betrayal without precedent in the American working class, which has seen the complete retreat of Fraser and the silence of the pseudo-revolutionaries. Not

passive reflection, not patient education, but a bold program of combat is what is called for:

FOR AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE UAW TO ORGANIZE A GENERAL STRIKE!

NO PLANT CLOSURES, NO WAGE CUTS — OPEN THE BOOKS TO WORKERS INSPECTION COMMITTEES.

The retreat of Fraser is not based on the autoworkers, it is based on the layoffs and liquidation of workers gains — this is the source of Fraser' authority. It is a shaky and crisis-ridden authority which is ready to be toppled through the initiatives of autoworkers to win back their unions and unite with the hundreds of thousands of laid-off workers who are the real source of authority for the union.

The liquidation of Chrysler can only be stoppled by the workers' initiatives toward WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION beginning with the opening up of all the secret documents and deals of the government, the bosses and the bureaucrats. Independent WORKERS COMMITTEES must be organized to lead this work and pass over to the organization of the daily control of production standards and overtime and to raise the demand for the OCCUPATION OF FACTORIES threatened by closing.

JOIN THE PARTY THAT LEADS THIS FIGHT.

The means to clarify for American workers the nature and the program of their party is through the testing out of every tendency in relation to the tasks of building a mobilization for the GENERAL STRIKE and the independence of the unions. It is only by this struggle that the working class can be actively armed to confront the problems of the revolution. The militant workers and youth will look to the party that bases itself on the ADVANCE of the world revolution and not to those who are mired in retreat.

The Trotskyist Organization/USA calls on workers and youth who want to join in this fight to build with us the 6th National Conference of the T.O. It will be a conference where the workers and youth will not feel isolated from the revolution, a Conference to take up a struggle against the Reagan administration and its attempts to harm imperialism, a Conference for the organization of the general strike and the preparation of the revolution.
January 19, 1981

Rearm the Workers Movement Prepare the

Madrid and Rearmament

Up until the holding of the Open World Workers Conference in Madrid in April, we will be devoting the centerfold of our newspaper to the struggle for and the preparation of this Conference.

All the articles on these pages will center on this struggle, the struggle to REARM THE WORKERS MOVEMENT for the great tasks that confront it in the coming period. This coming period is one of the direct preparation of the revolution on the international scale.

We have determined that the focus of the struggle for the Open World Workers Conference is the defense of the Polish Revolution and the preparation of the revolution in each country. That is the axis around which this part of the paper will be organized.

The Madrid Conference of the masters of the world, of the imperialists and of their allies in the international Stalinist apparatus, has adjourned until, provisionally, March of this year.

This "Conference on European Security and Cooperation," whose purpose was to rearm the collaboration between imperialism and the Kremlin, DID NOT succeed in its goals. This is not due to any lack of willingness from the partners. Instead, it was due to the vast, increasing and developing mobilization of the workers of the world toward the revolution. The Polish Revolution, in particular, hammered the final nail in the coffin of "peaceful coexistence."

But it is false to simply note with satisfaction the difficulties of our enemies. The task is to centralize and provide a political leadership for the great upsurge that has already dealt these foes such destructive blows.

That is the task of OUR Conference, the Open World Workers Conference, in Madrid. The task is still to mobilize for the boycott of the Conference of the masters of the world, especially through the march of the youth on Madrid, but now this task has an even more aggressive character. We are not out primarily to defeat their Conference but, more clearly than ever, to turn ours into a victory.

In every country, in the unions, in the working class parties, in the youth organizations, in groups fighting for national independence, there is developing a current which rejects the old order of imperialist exploitation and oppression, of Stalinist lies and repression. Our Conference is OPEN because it is open to these forces that are looking for a solution to the problems and needs that they face.

Beginning with the fight against THEIR Madrid Conference, the Fourth International opens the road to rearming the workers movement. The building of committees for the boycott of Madrid is the way for those in the U.S. who are part of this international current to centralize and organize their fight.

TRUTH
January 18, 1981

Crisis in the SWP

By KEVIN FITZPATRICK

The political situation in the world today is full of sharp developments, developments that reflect the decisive turn on the world scale toward the revolutionary confrontation.

The whole perspective of the past, basically that of "peaceful coexistence" between the Kremlin and imperialism, has been blown to hell by the development of the revolution, especially the Polish Revolution.

All the organizations that based themselves on this perspective have had their political chairs pulled out from under them. They have all entered into a vast crisis.

One of the chief parties of this type is the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), which is the leading pseudo-Trotskyist organization in the United States.

The crisis in the SWP became blatantly obvious at the November 15-17 meeting of its National Committee last year.

In the aftermath of the elections and Reagan's victory, the SWP leadership, represented by National Secretary Jack Barnes, had to engage in a complete retreat from the perspective that had guided it for a year and more, particularly in its election campaign.

Ever since late 1979, the SWP had deeply engaged itself in a policy of building a "labor party" on the basis of the pro-capitalist trade union bureaucracy's vague rumblings.

The victory of Reagan, the prostration of the bureaucrats, completely shattered this illusion of the peaceful and respectable building of a party that wouldn't be the Democratic Party, that would also not be a revolutionary party, but a party that "would stand up and fight in Congress." But the bureaucrats didn't stand up, and they didn't fight, and the Republicans went to Congress.

On the question of the very specific and very American elections, the SWP's policy had attained only bankruptcy. Because apart from the perspective of the growing revolutionary confrontation on the world scale there can be no successful national policy. The SWP leadership was counting on "peaceful coexistence" at home, too, and its shattering meant the shattering of its ever so "realistic" policy.

Over the last few years, the SWP has made a great deal of effort to place its militants in industry, in the unions. Naturally, this policy has been hard hit by the massive layoffs. Nonetheless, there are still a large number of SWP members who are in the unions, who have contacts, etc. Many of them took their leadership's "industrialization" policy for good coin; they were really going to win workers for the revolution — at last.

Barnes blusters that the 1980's will not be the decade of "Reaganism," but "will go down in history as the decade of the young rebel workers."

But what does he recommend to the young rebel workers, including those in his own party?

To be exact, the fight against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, the "defense" of Cuba and Grenada, the court case against the FBI, the anti-nuke movement, the fight against the draft. Everything — and NOTHING! Because these "campaigns" are precisely what the SWP said it was going beyond with its turn to the unions and to the "labor party." Now, all of a sudden, the militants find themselves back at square one, without even an explanation.

Nowhere is this return to the past sharper than on the question of the black party. A year ago, the SWP leadership officially dumped its longstanding proposal for a black party: "the perspective of the labor party — not the Black or Chicano party — (is) the best way today to explain the need for a break with the capitalist parties."

But now, with the collapse of its perspective for a reformist "labor party" and with the creation of the National Black

"We Are All Polish Workers"

In the last few weeks in Poland, the development of the revolution has meant new confrontations with the Stalinist regime, confrontations which show again and again that there is no possibility of compromise with this agency of imperialism.

In a number of small cities in Eastern Poland, members of the free trade union SOLIDARITY, together with farmers fighting for an agricultural union, have occupied government buildings, in particular and most significantly, the offices of the CRZZ, the "official" Stalinist "union" federation.

On January 11, Stalinist boss Kania's police removed workers and farmers occupying the town hall of Nowy Sacz. This was the first open use of repression since the strikes of last year.

Most important of all, however, has been the question of Saturday work. The refusal to work Saturdays was supported by the biggest factories, that is, by the bastions of the proletariat, by the most advanced workers.

What is at stake in this issue? Why does it arouse so much concern?

The whole attack of the Polish bureaucracy, acting on behalf of imperialism, on the workers has been organized under the slogan of "the crisis." That was the reason for the price increases that sparked the workers revolt. That is the justification for demanding work on Saturdays. "The economy is in bad shape; we all have to make sacrifices," say the bureaucrats.

But what this means is that the rule of the bureaucracy, which attacks the conquests of the workers, which serves world imperialism, is not to be questioned. Because "the crisis" is really the reflection of the fact that the bureaucracy continues to exist, continues to ruin the economy, to depress the workers' standard of living and to

crush their rights. Independent Political Party — which to be sure does reflect, in a distorted way, the need for an independent workers party — the SWP has explicitly returned to the past. But this past, this illusion of peaceful development and "peaceful coexistence," has been definitively destroyed. None of us can go back in time to the "good old days." And this is even more true for political parties. Living in the past is a sure sign of senility, especially in politics.

This utter confusion, this empty beating on last year's drums, can fool no one. The militants of the SWP and of its youth group, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), are deeply disoriented and defensive. This was especially apparent at the recent YSA Convention which had nothing to say and in which it became obvious that the YSA is a revolving door for many youth; they see revolution on the outside, come inside and find nothing and

crush their rights.

The mobilization of the workers to remove this fundamental cause of the real crisis, initially taking the form of free trade unions, continually seeks to break out of this strait-jacket, to pose the questions of power and not of "collective bargaining," of "wages and hours" exclusively.

And the attack on this drive takes the form of MINIMIZING the nature of the struggle, of trying to confine it to "trade unionism."

This is most graphically demonstrated by a very interesting "united front" of sorts. At the very moment that Kania was shouting that SOLIDARITY, by which he means the workers movement, cannot become a "dual authority," an alternative power, the pope and Lech Walesa, while meeting in Rome, happily chimed in. "We are not a political group, and we will never be one," said Walesa. "The activity of the unions does not have a political nature, it must not be the instrument of action . . . of any political party," said the pope, adding a little plea for "prudence and moderation."

So this is the "difference" between Walesa, the pope and Kania!

Our party, the Fourth International and its Polish section, have nothing to do with this counterrevolutionary agreement. We state frankly that the Polish workers must find a political solution, the revolutionary overthrow of the bureaucracy, and that they can find it only by building their party, the party of the political revolution.

All the opponents of this perspective, just as they try to present the situation as being about "unions" alone, also try to present the situation as confined to Poland.

Here again, the Fourth International is fundamentally in opposition. If the

Open World Workers Conference

go back out again. Once again, any SWP militant must find this deeply demoralizing.

At the same time, at the same National Committee meeting, another element was added to the SWP's crisis, an element which makes it clearer what the cause of this crisis is.

Following the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, a counterrevolutionary action by the Kremlin in the defense of the status quo in Central Asia, the SWP came out and unhesitatingly endorsed the Kremlin's policy. It embarked on a campaign to tell the "truth about Afghanistan." Now, it seems it wasn't the "truth" at all.

Because, at the NC meeting, the SWP leadership completely reversed itself on Afghanistan — a bit late to be sure! The details of its "position" are irrelevant, what matters is the change itself. "Peaceful coexistence," which

Workers"

struggle of the Polish workers remains isolated in the national boundaries of Poland it will not be able to find its necessary conclusion.

There are two key aspects to this question. First, there is the question of the workers of the Soviet Union.

The strikes by hundreds of thousands of Soviet autoworkers were the warning tremors of the Polish earthquake. The Kremlin continually threatens the Polish workers because it desperately fears the revolt of its own working class.

Just as in Poland before the explosion, there are militants fighting for free trade unions, particularly the forces around SMOT, whose leader, Vladimir Borisov, was deported to the West.

Bringing the Soviet workers into the battle on the side of the Polish Revolution means a struggle to defend these free trade unions and their militants, especially the founder of the first Soviet free trade union, Vladimir Klebanov, who has been confined to a KGB "special" psychiatric hospital.

And this question makes the link with the second key aspect, the defense of the Polish Revolution by the workers of the imperialist countries. Naturally, we are concerned most of all with the role of U.S. workers in this defense.

The Fourth International has proposed, and Borisov and Victor Fainberg, SMOT's representative abroad, have agreed to fight for an INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMISSION to defend the free trade unions.

What does a fight for this ITUC mean in the United States? First of all, it is not a fight to get some empty expressions of empty sympathy, what they call "solidarity," from the trade union bureaucrats in the U.S. These people specialize in such empty gestures. The AFL-CIO has just announced that it has donated a grand total of \$160,000 to the

both the Kremlin and the SWP were defending in Afghanistan, has bitten the dust. More precisely, the Polish Revolution has once again demonstrated the completely counterrevolutionary character of the Kremlin bureaucracy. It is no longer useful or wise to try to identify with the Kremlin, thus the return to "Trotskyist" phrases — for the record.

But even these phrases immediately run up against reality. In trying to find some safe refuge from all-out identification with the Kremlin, the SWP cites Fidel Castro's position on Afghanistan: national self-determination and so on. But no sooner is this retreat arrived at than Castro himself comes out and for the first time openly supports the Kremlin's intervention, at the same time denouncing the Polish workers as the "class enemy"! And in this way each attempt to ease the crisis of the SWP only deepens it.

But there is a way out of this crisis for

Polish unions. This wouldn't pay the salaries of the AFL-CIO Executive Council for a month! Such generosity reveals the nature of these people's "solidarity."

Yes, we are for confronting the bureaucrats with the defense of the free trade unions in Poland, in the USSR, in the rest of Eastern Europe. But our fight is to make a breakthrough in this fight like the Polish workers did.

Workers in the U.S. face the same lies about the "crisis," the crisis that reflects the continued existence of the imperialist order.

The defense of the Polish workers, of the Soviet free trade unions, of the fight for the ITUC has to be oriented around the struggle to prepare the general strike in the U.S. Workers delegations to Poland and to the USSR, to investigate the conditions facing the free trade unions and to learn from their example, are not going to be possible except as part of a fight against the class collaborationist union leaders in the U.S. The most conscious and thoughtful workers will have to organize themselves around a perspective that will raise them above the bureaucrats' "solidarity," that will open up their active intervention into the struggle for the European Revolution, whose high point today is Poland.

The general strike, in the struggle for which the TO/USA offers a united front to the tendencies in the workers movement fighting for an independent solution, is the basis on which a real ITUC can be constructed.

This is especially connected with the fight against U.S. imperialism's complicity in the Kremlin's attacks on the Polish Revolution.

A struggle in the United States, a struggle for the independent power of the working class, will deal a blow to U.S. imperialism that will remove one

of the Kremlin's chief supports in its attack on the Polish Revolution. It will encourage the Polish workers. It will break the isolation of the Soviet workers and isolate their rulers.

"We are all Polish workers" means that our fight is the same and that uniting it on the world scale will mean its victory.

K.F.
January 20, 1981

Fainberg, Borisov

Victor Fainberg and Vladimir Borisov, leaders of the Soviet free trade union SMOT (Free Interprofessional Association of Workers) have proposed a tour of the United States. Already they have spoken in France, Spain, and Sweden sponsored by unions who were contacted by sections of the Revolutionary Youth International.

Fainberg and Borisov are leaders of the movement for independent unions that has developed in the Soviet Union, Poland, and Rumania. Borisov was recently deported from the USSR by the Soviet secret police, the KGB. They represent a new current of opposition to the Stalinist bureaucracy which bases itself on the working class independent of imperialism and Stalinism.

The tour in the United States is being planned and organized under the initiative of INTERNATIONAL YOUNG GUARD, U.S. (sympathizing) section of the Revolutionary Youth International. In order for it to be successful it is necessary that union and workers organizations support the tour actively, as well as provide financial means for the cost of the trip.

WORKERS! YOUTH! Forge your links with the free trade union movement. Join with IYG in organizing the support of this tour.

TRUTH
January 21, 1981

Why Haig?

Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State is going to be former general Alexander Haig. His name recalls the whole Nixon White House, but his selection means more than just bad memories.

Reagan was elected on a platform of rearming imperialism to implement counterrevolution at home and abroad. Haig's whole history makes him the "best man" for the State Department, which is concerned with imperialism's foreign interests.

Haig came to prominence not because of his long military career — this is of importance because it imbued him completely with the officer caste's hatred and contempt for the workers and oppressed — but because he was Henry Kissinger's right hand man in the Nixon period.

Haig was the faithful aide in the massive bombing of Cambodia — the largest bombing campaign in history — in the "Christmas bombing" of Hanoi, in the overthrow of the Allende government by the military torturers and murderers who rule Chile today.

You can see what a distinguished record he has.

And he was the man who, in the final days of the Watergate crisis, advised Nixon on how to hide the truth — "you just can't recall" — and virtually ran the government in Nixon's time of collapse, adding the final bonapartist touch to the "Imperial presidency."

To top it off, he is the one who arranged with the unelected Jerry Ford to pardon Nixon.

You can see he has a lot of valuable experience.

Several liberal senators bewailed the fact that Haig is taking a hard line on international affairs, particularly with the Kremlin. They moaned about the end of "detente" and about Haig's refusal to even consider new SALT talks.

"Detente" is dead. But it was never a policy of "peace" to be mourned. It was aimed at crushing the world revolution with the direct involvement of the Kremlin. The first fruit of this policy was the attempt to betray the Vietnamese Revolution, in particular the "Christmas bombing."

That policy failed then, and it has definitively failed now. Iran and Nicaragua helped to kill it. Poland struck the death blow. The Kremlin failed to hold up its end of the bargain; hence, no concessions to the Kremlin.

Haig's hardness toward the Kremlin reflects the increased capitulations, to the point of being prepared for clashes, that imperialism demands from Stalinism.

Counterrevolution now is open, not masked. It seeks to rearm itself. Haig is its tool. Defeating him and Reagan means the rearmament of the workers movement that we are preparing.

TRUTH
January 18, 1981

Fight Reagan's Latin American Policies

Boycott of the Dictatorships Advances

By MARGARET GUTTSALL

Reagan's election means a change in U.S. policy in Central America.

Carter's attempt to block the workers' and oppressed peoples' struggles and maintain U.S. power failed. No one believed his promises of "human rights" to the masses while he terrorized independent working class and revolutionary organizations.

So Reagan seeks to openly rearm U.S. imperialism and its puppet dictatorships, to confront and crush the revolution.

Roger Fontaine, Reagan's leading Latin American adviser, calls for a "U.S.-backed coup against the Sandinist government in Nicaragua through a cut-off of all U.S. aid and by molding the national guard in exile into an effective fighting force!" (from the *Nation*, November 29, 1980, quoted in *Intercontinental Press*).

Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Reagan's U.N. ambassador-designate, protested Carter's temporary suspension of aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship following its assassination of several U.S. citizens, saying it would weaken the dictatorship and pave the way for a communist victory.

And Reagan aides met with leading members of the Salvadoran junta immediately after it murdered six leaders of the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Front.

Yet Reagan does not yet have either the political or the practical force necessary to implement this policy. In the last weeks of his election campaign he was forced to present himself as a "man of peace," his policy as one directed at avoiding conflicts with the peoples of other countries.

THUS NOW IS A PERFECT TIME FOR THE WORKING CLASS TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE against Reagan's politics of oppression in Central and South America, to reject the oppression of one nation by another, to take independent working class action to block all communication and practical support to the puppet dictatorships of the U.S., BEFORE Reagan accumulates the necessary strength to implement his murderous policy.

It is necessary to continue and extend the initiative of the West Coast dockworkers, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). This union decided to refuse to handle all riot control and military equipment destined for El Salvador. While this decision corresponded with Carter's decision to temporarily suspend aid, it also went beyond it. Longshoremen refused to handle ANY CARGO, whether it had been previously authorized by Carter or not. And a representative of the ILWU, Mike Lewis, speaking at a rally in Washington on January 12, promised to continue the boycott under the Reagan regime.

The ILWU's initiative shows the way forward for the entire working class! An ALL-UNION boycott of this bloody dictatorship is necessary. Unions must stop every form of communication to these dictatorships: telephone, telegraph, postal; all funds; all supplies, military or otherwise;

anything that can possibly be used to help them maintain their power. And this boycott must be extended to all military dictatorships in Central and South America — Guatemala Honduras, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Uruguay, Paraguay.

This struggle for a workers boycott of the dictatorships must be accompanied by a fight for the general strike and the construction of popular assemblies of the workers and peasants in the countries of the dictatorships. Only this sort of working class struggle can really tap the revolutionary energies of the working class and assure their victory by separating them from all the Johnny-come-lately's in Central and South America who've decided to "support" the revolution so as to keep it "reasonable."

With this sort of struggle the working class will nip Reagan's plans in the bud. The real obstacle to this struggle is the politics of passivity and conciliation in the top ranks of the working class, exemplified by the UAW's response to our struggle for a workers boycott (printed below).

The UAW leadership says that the workers are incapable of launching an effective boycott (in this case of the dictatorship in Bolivia); therefore, it is necessary to rely on who to change the situation? The U.S. "administration." The very body responsible for the dictatorships in the first place.

The UAW admits this in part of the resolutions of its 25th Constitutional Convention: "We are ashamed that in many cases some of the worst human rights violators were helped to power by past U.S. governments . . . Many right wing regimes throughout Latin and Central America could not have stayed in power without U.S. support . . . The UAW condemns the cynical intervention and often subversion of our Latin and Central American neighbors."

This is obviously another case of "talk is cheap."

And this attitude doesn't simply characterize the leadership of the UAW. The majority of union, solidarity and political organizations continue to condemn U.S. maintenance of the dictatorships in Central and South America, but refuse to take united, independent action to block it, continue to orient toward pressuring the U.S. to change its policy. The Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party, which claim to be revolutionary parties, have both so far refused to join in the struggle for a workers boycott of the Central and South American dictatorships.

These same tendencies more or less peacefully coexist with sections of the labor movement, in particular in the AFL-CIO, which are openly involved in U.S. counterinsurgency operations in Central America, like the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a CIA front organized with the cooperation of the AFL-CIO, involved in the identification and persecution of labor and peasant leaders.

The American working class cannot accept this. It cannot allow its relations with the workers of other countries to be dictated by the U.S. government, whose own relations with other countries are dictated by the banks and the corporations and their rapacious desires to maintain their power and profits.

A change in the politics of the unions is necessary. The AIFLD must be repudiated and exposed. The ILWU's boycott must be continued and extended — to block ALL communications and ALL shipments to ALL dictatorships.

This will leave no question as to where the American working class stands. It will put an end to Reagan's dreams. And it will create the general conditions and diffe-

rentiate the forces necessary to rebuild the workers international's sections in North, Central and South America.

The Trotskyist Organization/USA calls on all working class organizations, in particular the ILWU, to join us in building a conference of union, solidarity and political organizations to boycott the dictatorships in Central and South America. And we challenge the UAW leadership to reconsider its position, to take the position in the class struggle it was founded to take.

Contact:

TO/USA

PO Box 07066

Detroit, MI 48207

with statements of support, plans, etc. January 18, 1981

UAW Response

Dear Brothers Vitale and Heffelfinger:

Your letter to Region 1E Director Bard Young was directed to my attention for reply.

In your letter you request endorsement of the formation of boycott committees to: (1) Stop all communications, trade and arms to the Bolivian Junta, and (2) Free the political and trade union prisoners.

In contacting our International Affairs Department on the matter we were informed as follows:

"We have examined the possibility of boycott action. However, unless other nations join us in such boycott action, especially those in Latin America, such an effort would be a waste of time. Unfortunately, the bordering and other nearby nations of Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile have been aiding the Bolivian dictatorship. Because these governments control their trade union movements rather tightly, it is unlikely we would be able to successfully undertake a coordinated trade union boycott.

"It is felt, therefore, that we should join with effective organizations to keep the pressure on the administration to refuse any economic assistance to that country and to pressure such international organizations as the United Nations, the International Labor Organization and the Organization of American States to protect the rights of political prisoners and to minimize insofar as possible the brutality and human suffering that prevails in that country.

Further, Leo Suslow, Director of our International Affairs Department was informed by letter from the Department of State that:

"Immediately following the coup, the United States announced the termination of military assistance, the cessation of new commitments of economic assistance, and the recall of our ambassador for consultations. To demonstrate continued concern with the developments in Bolivia, the secretary announced on July 25th that our government would withdraw our military group from Bolivia, substantially reduce embassy personnel, and terminate all economic assistance projects where there was a basis to do so under existing agreements, except those programs which support humanitarian assistance such as food pood programs carried on by private voluntary agencies.

"The Organization of American States adopted a resolution strongly condemning the violations of human rights and the interruption of the democratic process, a resolution which the United States representative strongly supported.

"We hope that these actions will demonstrate the depth of our concern over the situation in Bolivia. This government will not condone elements within the Bolivian Armed Forces seeking to thwart the will of the Bolivian people. The support of the UAW for this position is greatly appreciated."

In addition, UAW policy on "exerting pressure on all dictatorial regimes for the freedom of trade unions" and other related matters is thoroughly examined in *Where We Stand*, a volume concerning resolutions adopted at the 26th UAW Constitutional Convention June 1-6, 1980, at Anaheim, California. A copy is enclosed.

Sincerely and fraternally,
REGION 1E, UAW
George P. Whitton
Assistant Director

Reject the Chrysler Pact!

Vote No!

Emergency National Convention of the UAW

By FRED VITALE

On Monday, January 19, the 250-member Chrysler Council of the UAW recommended to the Chrysler workers the ratification of the concessions dictated by the Government Loan Board to the UAW. It is clear that the Wall Street banks (which now own Chrysler completely) and the government are the organizers of these concessions, Doug Fraser, president of the UAW, THE "enforcer." And the demands for "protection money" for the jobs keep going up, while the number of jobs goes down. The only way to stop the extortion by these mobsters is to take the offensive.

The Trotskyist Organization calls on all autoworkers, all unions and workers organizations to join in a UNITED FRONT FOR A GENERAL STRIKE, for an Emergency National Convention of the UAW to organize a General Strike to break this "deal" as the working class ALTERNATIVE to the "save Chrysler" program. This fight cannot be separated from VOTE NO! — every Chrysler worker must vote "no" — but without a battle for an alternative struggle, without a means for the workers to impose their demands, the Chrysler workers cannot hold out against the tremendous pressures on them from the bourgeoisie and its agents.

The mobilization of the autoworkers against the Chrysler pact can begin around two key demands. First, NO MORE PLANT CLOSINGS, NO MORE WAGE CUTS. We cannot tolerate one more job lost or any decrease in wages. "Equality of sacrifice" is the UAW leadership's self-proclaimed goal. But this itself is a lie since the autoworkers are in no way responsible for the crisis of the banks and the corporations. So, secondly, OPEN THE BOOKS, of Chrysler, and especially of the banks, to see what profits they made off our past concessions and, most importantly, to see exactly what their plans for the future are. Their books should be open to inspection by democratically elected union committees.

A general strike to impose these demands is the conclusion a section of workers have begun to draw after learning the REALITY of the "save Chrysler" program.

"Save Chrysler" began around the liquidation of the Dodge Main plant in Detroit in 1979. It came from the corporation and was supported by the UAW leadership and virtually every "left," "socialist" and "revolutionary" organization in the U.S. It was and still is the program of the bourgeoisie to liquidate the strongholds of the working class, to destroy the unions, to accelerate the exploitation of the workers. And this program was imposed on the workers movement by the misleaders of the working class.

Today, many of these workers organizations are calling for autoworkers to vote "no." But they refuse to challenge the "save Chrysler" program and they have not presented a revolutionary alternative in action.

The Chrysler pact just accepted by the UAW leadership begins the effort to impose this program on the entire working class. And it has no end. They will never be satisfied. And it's not simply over money. They want to destroy our organized strength, eliminate our rights and break our spirit of resistance. These are the goals of the "save Chrysler" movement.

A similar effort began in Poland. In the name of the "crisis of the Polish economy" (sound familiar?) the Polish government removed subsidies on food prices and caused the prices to rise. It was this increase that precipitated the powerful leap in the Polish revolution this summer. A massive strike wave demanded the end of the increases, a forty-hour week with no cut in pay, unions independent from the government. This is the first stage of the Polish revolution, going towards the workers becoming "the real masters of the factories." This movement can be our model on how to turn the call for "sacrifices" by the union leaders into a mass, revolutionary movement for working class solutions to the crisis of the entire old world order. And, in a fashion similar to that of the Polish workers we can begin with NO MORE PLANT CLOSINGS, NO MORE WAGE CUTS, OPEN THE BOOKS OF CHRYSLER AND THE BANKS TO UNION COMMITTEES.

By building a United Front for a General Strike through winning the support of unions and working class parties to prepare this strike together — electing strike committees, drawing up specific demand — we can do what the Polish workers are doing. They are fighting and they are winning.

In the UAW itself, an Emergency National Convention of the UAW is the way to fight for a General Strike. Already at a GM Sub-council meeting in Milwaukee recently, a delegate raised a "general strike against high interest rates" and got a resounding ovation. A letter appeared in a recent issue of SOLIDARITY, the UAW newspaper, expressing a similar sentiment. This response can be organized with an Emergency National Convention of the UAW. Autoworkers can utilize the legal framework of the UAW Constitution which says that 15 locals in 5 states can demand a union-wide vote for a Special Convention.

Why have the old methods of struggle failed? Why does Fraser moan, "in collective bargaining, you've got control over your own destiny. Here you don't." And Neil Goldschmidt, Transportation Secretary in the Carter administration, quoted the results of a year-long study of the future of the auto industry which predicted the loss of 500,000 jobs over the next five years and said "labor unions must agree to wage restraints . . ."

This reason for Fraser's whining and Goldschmidt's "predictions" are that the times have changed. There is no place for slowly and peacefully going forward in wages, benefits etc. For the same

reason that workers and peasants of Iran and Nicaragua and now in Poland have gone into revolutionary mobilization, we must too. Either the bourgeoisie and the Stalinist bureaucrats impose their program on the workers and peasants, or we impose our will, our program on them. The middle ground has disappeared.

Building a mass movement to confront the deal between the government and the UAW is a positive conclusion drawn from the recent presidential elections. First, the big rush to get a new "contract of concessions" by the end of January had much more to do with the bourgeoisie's desire to take advantage of the confusion among the workers, following Reagan's election (because they did not have their own Candidate and Program seen by thousands of workers) than it did with the "bankruptcy of Chrysler." The bourgeoisie struck while the iron was hot.

But most importantly, both the "save

Chrysler" movement and the elections were efforts to impose the bourgeoisie's programs on the working class. The working class had no program of its own, tested in struggle, respected by millions of workers. To develop this program for workers power, to test it in the struggle preparing and launching a General Strike, is our task today.

In this battle, a Workers Party can be organized by the most conscious and militant workers, their unions and working class parties that take their place in this combat. Only a party that is born in the fire of the class struggle and not in the ink of timid pronouncements on the "need for a labor party" from union bureaucrats can be called the Workers Party.

To begin today to win tomorrow — Vote NO on the Chrysler Pact! An Emergency National Convention of the UAW to organize the general strike! January 19, 1981

Resurgence of Black Struggle

Fifty thousand people demonstrated across the U.S. ON January 15th to demand that Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (the assassinated civil rights leader) be made a national holiday. Over 25,000 demonstrated in Washington, DC, five days before Reagan was inaugurated. Five thousand in Buffalo and 2,000 in Atlanta, marched where blacks have been murdered in racist attacks. And thousands more participated in celebrations and meetings in major cities.

Last year there was virtually no activity on January 15th, and certainly throughout the year, no demonstrations approaching this magnitude. What is happening?

There is the beginning of a NEW MOVEMENT FOR BLACK RIGHTS. This new movement has expressed itself around Martin Luther King's birthday solely because he has emerged as a symbol of the whole black struggle in the 60's and early 70's. The legitimate demand to make his birthday a holiday is a demand for the recognition of the black struggle in the U.S., a fight for the truth of the 60's against the lies of Jimmy Carter (and surely as well, Ronald Reagan) when he said that imperialism "gave blacks their rights." No, it was a massive mobilization of millions of blacks that forced the inroads into the racist structure of American society.

Blacks want the struggle in the 60's recognized, because they want to build

such a movement again, because they still do not have their rights.

There is a new CONSCIOUSNESS among blacks, especially among black youth. It was not accidental that the main sponsor of the mobilization for the demonstrations on January 15th was Stevie Wonder, a very popular black musician, whose music in the past has protested the black condition ("Livin' in the City," "You Haven't Done Nothin'").

A new consciousness demands a new program, not "return to the 60's." The days of making significant inroads into the racist structure of American capitalism on the basis of demonstrations, court cases and pressure on the Federal government are gone. A program of no compromise with U.S. imperialism, a program based on the revolutionary methods being developed around the world by the fighters against U.S. imperialism. A program for the industrial unions, in which blacks have a larger role than in society as a whole, to take their place as THE organizations that can be in the forefront of winning black rights.

The struggle for black rights has a decisive place in the American Revolution. Until the American workers and their organizations stand for unconditional defense of black rights, they cannot advance.

F.V.
January 20, 1981

World Revolution and the Imperialist Draft

By RICH TETRAULT

In face of the advances of the world revolution in this period, the struggle the youth in the United States against the imperialist draft takes on added significance and demands a political discussion and platform of combat which reflects these advances.

Draft registration, which was reinstated by Jimmy Carter in July of 1980, has at its base two purposes. The first being the obvious. That is, to grease the sheets of the imperialist US government in preparing to accommodate hundreds of thousands of 18 and 19 year old males in the U.S. Armed Forces. The thought of the U.S. moving militarily anywhere in the world is a constant threat against the workers and youth not only in the U.S., but throughout the globe.

The second purpose, and perhaps the most important, is the attack on the consciousness of the youth. In the absence of a revolutionary leadership which has the respect and confidence of the youth, the situation is wide open to individual solutions and the policies of opportunists who have no political principles.

In the style of the Anti-Import or the Anti-Iran campaign, which left scores of young Iranians in the U.S. imprisoned, beaten or dead, the capitalist class in the U.S. is rearming its terrorist apparatus against the consciousness of the American youth and against the advancing world revolution.

No honest, class-conscious youth would tolerate this policy of national chauvinism. It is the responsibility of a revolutionary organization to define a response.

The Carter government made its turn at precisely the point when mass mobilizations of youth were being unleashed against the draft. The Revolutionary Youth International marched under the banner of Lenin and called on youth to enlist in the World Army of the Socialist Revolution as the only way to confront the political motivation behind the draft.

The Carter regime was clearly divided and acting defensively in response to the mounting pressures from the youth. Now, as was true then, the fight against the draft must assume the character of advancing the revolution, of developing the anti-draft campaign as a revolutionary offensive of the entire working class.

It is no surprise that Carter chose a specific age group of American youth, in particular the sector of the working class which most strongly solidarizes itself with the revolution. This represents a conscious



Revolutionary Youth International at March 22, 1980, anti-draft demonstration in Washington, DC.

attempt to isolate American youth from the world revolution.

A real combat platform of the youth against the draft cannot be developed outside of the discussion of the world situation. Beginning with the Iranian Revolution, the question of the colonial revolution was posed more sharply. With the counterrevolutionary presence of the Kremlin in the Middle East, through its military intervention in Afghanistan in December of 1979, the threat of military buildup in the region became the premise for the attacks on the consciousness of the American working class. What was portrayed by the bourgeois press as a breakdown in diplomatic relations, a step back for detente, was in actuality the further subordination of the Kremlin to the policies of imperialism.

The following January, Carter alluded to a possible draft registration and the youth responded immediately and with great vigor. The next six months were filled with demonstrations and rallies across the country. But on July 2, Carter ordered reinstatement of draft registration, with its starting date as July 21.

Military coups took place in Turkey and Bolivia and Iran became engulfed in war with Iraq. Meanwhile the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador continues to wage a bloody battle against the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

In August, the Polish workers unleashed a strike wave throughout Poland in a confrontation with the Stalinist bureaucracy. In a matter of months, the Polish workers have built one of the most powerful independent trade unions in the

world and have pointed the road forward for workers throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

On November 4, Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United States.

The world situation is rapidly changing. The Madrid Conference on "European Security and Cooperation" was formally convened in November and assigned the task of developing policies to rearm the terrorist states of imperialists and bureaucrats against the struggles of the workers and masses of oppressed around the world. From this perspective we can see more clearly the significance of the struggle against the imperialist draft and the key role the youth play in the world revolution. The question of the independent organization of the youth, to develop a living,

revolutionary character and place the youth on the side of militant workers and revolutions throughout the globe.

On the opposite side of this struggle we find the centrists who separate the youth from the revolution and encourage illusions that the confrontation with imperialism can be avoided, that by refusing to register or some other individual solution any advance could be made.

At the head of the anti-draft movement we find the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD). It is in the shadows of CARD that the centrists and opportunists can be found. Lacking any independent policy they resort to the policies of the petty bourgeoisie.

The struggles of the youth to break with the bourgeois order are concentrated in the struggle against the draft in the framework of the world socialist revolution. Movements of compromise can only be roadblocks to the independence of the youth.

The Revolutionary Youth International and its American section, International Young Guard/USA, are planning an intervention at the CARD conference scheduled for February 14-16 at Wayne State University in Detroit. We welcome young militants to join us in a combat to organize an anti-draft campaign on the basis of a revolutionary program. In this way we can feel and develop our strength and isolate those who would subordinate us to the imperialists and their lackeys.

Break With The Imperialist Order!

Enlist in the World Army of the Socialist Revolution! Boycott the Madrid Conference!

January 19, 1981

Get INTERNATIONAL YOUNG GUARD
Organ of the Revolutionary
Youth International

Write: PO Box 07066
Detroit, MI 48207

Sixth National Conference of the Trotskyist Organization/USA
Weekend of February 14-15, 1981
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