

Stop war on Iraq!

Support the popular revolution in the Middle East!

Over 150,000 demonstrated against the U.S.'s war on Iraq in Washington, D.C., on January 26. Busloads of people came from all over the Midwest, even from states as far away as Minnesota and Iowa. Rest-stops along the turnpike were packed at all hours of the night. Demonstrators, mostly young people, brought their own signs, their own chants, and their own literature. More than anything, they came to express their opposition to the war and to try to find a way to stop it. Many did not even stop to listen to the speakers. Speakers, including Jesse Jackson, received, at best, polite applause.

Naturally the media suppressed almost all coverage of this demonstration. They want the people to think that the vast majority of the people support the war on Iraq and that those who are against are nothing but a handful, a "lunatic fringe."

This is a lie.

In fact, the demonstration in Washington, D.C., was only a *small* expression of the opposition to the war that really exists in the United States and, even more, throughout the world. Millions of people are demonstrating every day in the Middle East, Northern Africa, Europe and elsewhere, against the U.S.'s war on Iraq, for the U.S. to stop the bombing and withdraw its forces now.

We urge all working people in the U.S. to support all these struggles against the U.S.'s war on Iraq in every way possible.

Many working people in the U.S. do not realize this, but a *popular revolution* is actually developing in the Middle East, the USSR, and elsewhere.

The Iraqi people, who overthrew the king of Iraq and established a republic in 1958, went into Kuwait and overthrew the royal family, because this royal family was stealing Iraqi oil and taking all the wealth in the region for themselves. The Kuwaiti ruling family has been living in luxury, while the masses of people have been living in poverty and misery. The masses of people in Kuwait, most of whom do not even have the right to vote, welcomed the Iraqis.

What is more, this is only one of many important developments in the popular

revolution in the Middle East in the last years, including the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, the expulsion of foreign exploiters from Iran, the successful defense of the Iranian revolution against Iraq (armed and encouraged by the U.S. to attack Iran), the popular insurrection of the Palestinian people against the racist State of Israel ...

U.S. banks and corporations are scared to death of this popular revolution. They are scared to death that other workers and oppressed peoples will follow the example of the Iranians, the Palestinians, the Iraqis, and rise up against the exploiters and oppressors in the U.S. and throughout the world.

So the U.S. government is trying to terrorize the people with bombs, mass destruction, death, injuries, sickness, hunger, suffering, misery ...

It is trying to hide its crimes from working people in the U.S. with a massive campaign of *lies* ...

The workers have the power to stop this U.S. war on the Iraqi people with demonstrations, strikes, a general strike, by refusing to take up arms against them ...

The workers have the power to build a workers party, a workers government, takeover the monopolies, develop a planned economy, and begin to build truly socialist and communist societies with no poverty or oppression of any kind ...

Now is the time to begin to use that power!

Stop the war on Iraq!
Stop the bombing!
Bring all the troops home now! ■

Warning!

As we go to press, European publications report that the U.S.'s war on Iraq is going very badly for the U.S. They report that U.S. military leaders have drawn the conclusion that they *cannot* drive Iraq out of Kuwait, that their only hope is to terrorize the peoples of the Middle East by totally destroying Iraq. They report that U.S. aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons have been sighted in the Middle East. French and Italian defense ministers opposed to U.S. plans have resigned. There is a general strike in Morocco and demonstrations throughout Northern Africa. Now more than ever U.S. workers need to support the struggle of the Iraqi people against our common enemy, U.S. banks, corporations, and their hired guns. The Iraqi people are fighting for their freedom and ours. They will not be defeated. U.S. attempts to terrorize the people will backfire. ■

Questions

Is Hussein another Hitler? No. This is a lie designed to justify war, mass terror, against the Iraqi people. Hitler was a leader of Germany, which was and is one of the most advanced and richest capitalist, imperialist nations. Hitler and Germany were actually in a position to compete with the biggest capitalist, imperialist powers — the U.S., Britain, and France — for control of areas in which they might invest their capital and reap the greatest profits. Hussein is a leader of Iraq, which is a capitalist nation, but not one of the most advanced or richest capitalist nations and not an imperialist nation. It is not in a position to compete with the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Japan. It represents a threat of a different kind. Its struggle against the domination of these imperialist powers is inspiring workers and oppressed peoples to rise up. This is why workers and oppressed peoples throughout the Middle East, Northern Africa, and elsewhere are supporting Hussein and the Iraqi armed forces against U.S. imperialism's armed forces. Their victory will advance the class struggle and socialism.

Should U.S. workers support U.S. troops? "Support the troops, not the war," say some. "Support the troops, bring them home," say others. But *which* U.S. troops do these people want U.S. workers to support? The U.S. troops that are in the armed forces because they thought they had no place else to go, the ones who don't want to be in the Middle East, the ones who are beginning to see the real nature of the U.S.'s terrorist war on Iraq, the ones who are beginning to look for a way to get out and/or help their Iraqi brothers and sisters? Or the U.S. troops that think the U.S. and its war on Iraq are great, who can't wait to kill as many Iraqis as they possibly can? U.S. workers should support soldiers against the war — conscientious objectors, soldiers that refuse to be sent to the Middle East, partisans of resistance within the armed forces — and fight for all working class soldiers to join their ranks.

Is it possible to stop this U.S. war on Iraq? Yes! Workers have the power to stop this war on Iraq (stop the bombing, force the government to withdraw troops, stop the sanctions ...) with demonstrations, strikes, general strikes, non-cooperation with the armed forces, together with the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world against the U.S.'s war, in defense of the Iraqi people. This will be an important, albeit temporary, victory. In order to stop U.S. wars on oppressed peoples once and for all, workers will have to form a workers party and organize a workers revolution, in which the workers establish their own government, takeover the monopolies, develop a planned economy, and crush the billionaire oppressors' resistance. As long as the resources of the U.S. remain in the hands of a tiny number of billionaire monopolists, they will be used to enrich these monopolists and make war on the workers and oppressed of the entire planet. ■

International Trotskyist Meeting

Just two days after the the bombing of Iraq began, Trotskyists met in Barcelona, Spain to discuss the war, the invasion of Lithuania and the progress made toward rebuilding the Fourth International. This was a meeting of the International Executive Committee (IEC) of the International League for the Rebuilding of the Fourth International (ILRFI) with representatives from France, the Antilles, Poland, the United States and Spain.

Three things became clear in the course of our discussions:

1) *The Gulf war is a war of national liberation for the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa. It is a war against the huge banks and corporations that extract profits from the region. (See declaration on the war in the last issue of Truth.)*

The response throughout the world to the bombing was so different from what was reported in the United States.

Every day in Spain, for example, there were demonstrations by workers and young people against the war. Huge demonstrations of 50,000 - 100,000 in cities of 1 or 2 million. All over Spain. Several young men *deserted* the army when the Spanish government sent it to the Gulf and they were supported by the workers and students. Even the parliaments of two oppressed peoples of Spain, Catalonia and the Basque region, urged soldiers to desert.

There were demonstrations all over Europe. In France, the government banned all demonstrations and threatened arrests. Yet, 10,000 workers and students still marched and battled the police for 3 hours from behind barricades with rocks.

There were demonstrations in every major city in North Africa and the Middle East in which entire populations participated. Hundreds of thousands of oppressed peoples demanded their governments support Iraq. In many cases, workers demanded guns and passage to Iraq so that they could fight alongside Iraq against the United States and its allies. (See the accompanying photo.)

The U.S. and its allies hoped for a quick victory over Iraq because every day the war continues, this popular revolution grows stronger.

The victory of this revolution is in the interest of U.S. workers and of workers and militants who want socialism.

The banks and corporations that these people are fighting are the same enemy that the workers face every day here. These peoples are struggling to complete the democratic revolution, to overthrow the remaining feudal states, to throw the imperialists out of the region. The victory of the democratic revolution will free the workers to pursue their struggle for socialism.

2) *The political revolution in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to throw off the bureaucracy and advance towards socialism continues to grow.*

Again, the news in Europe was different than in the United States. After the murder of 14 Lithuanians defending their country, 300,000 demonstrated in Moscow in support of Lithuania. As we were meeting, we learned that the Soviet miners were preparing to strike in defense of Lithuania.

The reason the Stalinist bureaucrats like Gorbachev and Yeltsin, etc., embrace capitalism is because it is the *only* way today to maintain their privileges. It is precisely these privileges and the accompanying dictatorship which the masses of people hate the most. The movements of the people against these privileges and for national self-determination are movements toward socialism. The bureaucrats embrace capitalism because the masses of workers and oppressed are moving toward socialism. This is the meaning of the events in the Soviet Union.

From these two developments we came to one undeniable conclusion: the epoch of 45 years of "world peace" is at an end. A world pre-revolutionary period has begun.



Part of a demonstration in Tunis, Algeria, of 300,000 a few days after the bombing of Iraq began. The banner reads: Mitterrand = Bush, assassins; Gorbachev, traitor.

This "peace," this "pax Americana," was forced on the peoples of the world by the economic supremacy of the United States with the political collaboration of the Kremlin. We are entering a period of wars and revolutions unlike anything that has ever been seen.

3) *The rebuilding of the Fourth International is now on the agenda.*

Participants reported on the activity of Trotskyists around the world. Without exception, each country reported that the *majority* of Trotskyists in their country took a principled stand against the Gulf war as well as in support of the political revolution in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Reports from discussions with or newspapers of Trotskyists in other countries — Argentina, Brazil, East Germany, the Soviet Union, England, etc. — showed the same thing.

The *minority* of Trotskyists, chiefly, those associated with the minority tendency of Mandel and grouped in the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, refused to support the popular revolution. They took equivocal positions on the Gulf war and the struggle for self-

determination for Lithuania. They adapt to the middle class — the petty bourgeoisie — that wants a return to the "peace" of the last 45 years.

There were reports of political turmoil and debate in nearly every international working class organization associated with Trotskyism. Conflicts of many types and degrees. But the fundamental forces behind these conflicts are class forces. There is developing a polarization between militants who fight to advance the developing working class socialist revolution, and those who, adapting to the petty bourgeoisie, are hostile to it.

The IEC concluded that, now more than ever, it is the hour of the Fourth International. The objective, materialist basis for rebuilding the Fourth International exists. To advance toward this goal, the IEC decided to focus its journal, *The Fourth International*, solely on the political struggle for rebuilding the Fourth International, internationally, and in each country. *The Fourth International* is available from Truth distributors for all those interested in Trotskyism. Jack Marlowe ■

Briefly . . .

Freedom for Lithuania! Many workers and oppressed people are supporting the struggle of Lithuanians, Latvians and others for self-determination. While the current leadership of this struggle may be bourgeois or petty bourgeois, workers will never stop the restoration of capitalism in these countries by supporting the pro-imperialist Gorbachev bureaucracy against these peoples. On the contrary, to do so will simply drive them into the arms of imperialism. Workers need to fight for self-determination for these countries, for maintaining and developing the conquests of the socialist revolution in these countries, and for the total destruction of the privileged bureaucracy (whether it calls itself socialist to cover its crimes or not) which is the biggest obstacle to both.

The Socialist Workers Party, which used to be a Trotskyist party and still retains traces of Trotskyist influence, has decided to put forward a candidate for Detroit City Council, Cleve Andrew Pulley, an autoworker. We urge all working people to support this working class candidate against the bourgeois candidates in this election.

Trotskyists from every Trotskyist tendency participated in the January 26 march in Washington, D.C. While they did not all use exactly the same terms, it was clear that the majority were for: stop the bombing; immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces; stop the sanctions against Iraq; no U.S. say in negotiations; defense of the Iraqi overthrow of

the Kuwaiti ruling family and of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait against U.S. imperialism; defense of all Iraqi people, including the Iraqi armed forces and Saddam Hussein, against U.S. imperialism. It was also clear that Trotskyists' influence is growing and that pressure for Trotskyists fighting for the program to come together is also growing.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 60 copies of *Truth* No. 251, 82 copies of *Truth* No. 252, and 28 copies of *The Fourth International* No. 157 at demonstrations in Detroit and Washington, D.C. against U.S. war on Iraq, at the Ford Rouge plant, and at Wayne County Community College. We would like to publish *Truth* more frequently in order to help combat imperialist war propaganda. In order to do this, we need to expand distribution. We ask readers to help by making a commitment to take extra copies of *Truth* for distribution on a regular basis.

Spark, the largest Trotskyist group in the Detroit area, is having a forum called "The Fight of Black People Against War" on Sunday, February 24, at 5 p.m. Pullman Hall. 4605 Cass Ave., Detroit.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is making a special effort to raise \$30,000 in the next few weeks to help with Mark's federal appeal, with a lawsuit against the police that arrested and beat him, and other efforts. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is making a small donation of \$25. Readers can send contributions to:

Mark Curtis Defense Committee
Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. ■

TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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7 reasons why workers and students from Detroit should join the Jan. 26 march in Washington for: Bring all U.S. troops home now! Money for human needs, not war!

1. Bush's war is against the interests of the working people and all oppressed peoples of Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries.

2. Bush's war is against the interests of working people in the United States:

— Working class youth, especially Black youth, in the so-called volunteer army, are the ones who are suffering and dying, not Bush's children ...

— Working people are paying for the war, with job cuts, social service cuts, higher prices, and higher wages, not Bush and other rich politicians and monopolists ...

— Workers of different races and nationalities are being pitted against each other ...

3. Bush's war is a losing war:

— The U.S. has become an imperialist nation, with an imperialist army, like Rome, Spain, or Great Britain. Past experience, including the war in Vietnam, shows that such armies, headed by imperialists, profiteers, and mercenaries paid to kill, are incapable of winning a war against a popular army fighting to defend its homeland from foreign invaders. Sooner or later the U.S. will be defeated, as was Rome, Spain or Great Britain before it.

— The best thing that working people can do for working class youth that have been caught up in this web, and now find themselves in Saudi Arabia, is to fight for Bush to bring all U.S. troops home now, for elementary democratic rights for U.S. soldiers, and for the truth about the nature of the U.S. and its army. The more working class youth in the army see the truth, the more they will be able to protect themselves from imperialist and mercenary superiors who see them as nothing but cannon fodder.

4. Mass demonstrations can force Bush to bring U.S. troops home now:

— Mass demonstrations in Germany, Eastern Europe, and the USSR brought down the Berlin Wall, forced hated Stalinist dictators to resign, and even forced some hated Stalinist dictators to be tried and executed, like the Romanian Ceauscescu.

5. Mass demonstrations will help create conditions in which working people will liberate themselves from all forms of exploitation and oppression.

— Working people will build their own workers party. The workers party will organize a workers revolution in which workers will set up their own government, takeover the monopolies, develop a planned economy that fully meets peoples' needs, and dismantle the U.S. war machine.

6. Students by themselves cannot force Bush to bring U.S. troops home now; working people must be actively involved in the struggle.

7. Bus tickets are \$55; buses leave Friday night, January 25, and return Sunday morning, January 27.

— Call 584-6556 for literature and transportation.

Published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

(Named after Leon Trotsky: leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution in Russia in 1917;

leader of the struggle against the rise of the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy in the USSR)

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