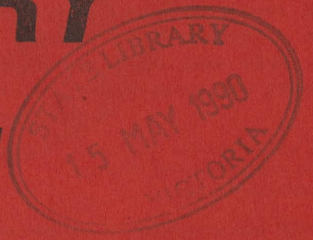




# REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST



ORGAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR A REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY IN AUSTRALIA.

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## in this issue

LENIN ON ELECTIONS.....	P.1
THE REDFERN RAID.....	P.2
LABOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, WELFARE AND THE REAL PROLETARIAT.....	P.5
THE LOOMING BATTLE OVER ABORTION RIGHTS AND SEXUALITY.....	P.11
R.I.M STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE.....	P.16
CAST AWAY ILLUSIONS(from Revolutionary Worker-USA).....	P.18
BIG BROTHER AND BIG BUSINESS (from Revolutionary Worker-USA).....	P.20
THE MULTI-FUNCTION POLIS.....	P.25

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# LENIN ON ELECTIONS

V. BOURGEOIS PARLIAMENTS SHOULD BE USED IN A REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT; TO CONFINED THE CLASS STRUGGLE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY STRUGGLE IS IN PRACTICE TO GO OVER TO THE BOURGEOISIE

EXPLAIN THE BOURGEOISIE'S DECEIT FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY PLATFORM AND EDUCATE THE BROAD MASSES

Parliament is the product of historical development, which we cannot obliterate from life until we are strong enough to disperse the bourgeois parliament. Only by being a member of a bourgeois parliament is it possible, on the basis of the given historical conditions, to fight against bourgeois society and parliamentarism. The proletariat must use the same weapons in the struggle as are used by the bourgeoisie—for altogether different aims, of course. You cannot deny that this is so; and if you want to challenge it you must wipe out the experience of all the revolutionary events in the world.

From "Speech on Parliamentarism, Delivered at the Second Congress of the Communist International" (August 2, 1920).

One has only to think over this complex, difficult and long history of proletarian struggle for power—struggle rich in amazingly variegated forms and in multiplicity of sharp changes, turns and switches from one form to another—clearly to see the error of those who would "forbid" participation in bourgeois parliaments, reactionary trade unions, tsarist or Scheidemann Shop Stewards' Committees or works' councils, and so on and so forth. This error has its source in the lack of revolutionary experience among utterly sincere, convinced and valiant working-class revolutionaries. Consequently, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were a thousand times right in January 1919 when, observing this mistake and pointing to it, they nevertheless chose to remain with the proletarian revolutionaries mistaken on a minor question, rather than side with the traitors to Socialism, the Scheidemannites and Kautskyites, who were not mistaken in the matter

of participating in bourgeois parliaments but who had ceased to be Socialists and became philistine democrats and accomplices of the bourgeoisie.

Nevertheless, a mistake remains a mistake and it is necessary to criticize it and fight for its rectification.

From "Greetings to Italian, French and German Communists" (October 10, 1919).

So long as we are still not strong enough to disperse the bourgeois parliament, we must work against it from both outside and inside. So long as a more or less considerable number of toilers—not only proletarians but also semi-proletarians and small peasants—still have faith in the bourgeois-democratic instruments of the bourgeoisie's deceit of the workers, we must explain this deceit *precisely from that platform* which the backward strata of the workers and in particular of the non-proletarian toiling masses consider to be the most substantial and the most authoritative.

So long as we Communists are not yet strong enough to take state power and carry out elections by the toilers alone of *their own* Soviets against the bourgeoisie, so long as the bourgeoisie still

wields state power and calls on all classes of the population to take part in elections, we are obliged to participate in the elections for the purpose of agitation among all toilers, not the proletarians alone. So long as in the bourgeois parliaments, deception is practised on the workers by using phrases about "democracy" to cover up financial swindles and all forms of bribery (nowhere, so much as in the bourgeois parliaments, does the bourgeoisie practise so widely its bribery of a particularly "subtle" type in relation to writers, deputies, lawyers, etc.)—so long must we, Communists, be obliged to unwaveringly expose deceit, to expose each and every ease of the desertion of the Renners and Co. to the side of the capitalists against the workers, precisely in this institution, which supposedly *expresses the will of the people* but in fact covers up *the deception of the people by the money-bags*. It is precisely in parliament that the relations between the bourgeois parties and factions most often reveal themselves and reflect the relations between all the classes of bourgeois society. Because of this, it is precisely in the bourgeois parliament, from inside it, that we Communists must explain to the people the *truth* about the relations of classes to parties, the relations

of landlords to farm labourers, of rich peasants to the poorest peasantry, of big capital to employees and petty owners, etc.

From "Letter to the Austrian Communists" (August 15, 1920).

IT IS THE HEIGHT OF FOLLY OR HYPOCRISY TO HOLD THAT POWER MUST BE WON ONLY AFTER WINNING A MAJORITY IN ELECTIONS

It is essential that the party of the revolutionary proletariat should participate in bourgeois parliamentarism for the purpose of educating the masses by means of elections and the struggle of parties within parliament. But to confine the class struggle to the parliamentary struggle, or to regard the latter as the supreme and decisive form of struggle, to which all other forms of struggle are subordinate, is in practice to desert the proletariat for the bourgeoisie.

From "The Constituent Assembly Elections and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" (December 16, 1919).

We must also note that Engels is most definite in calling universal suffrage an instrument of bourgeois rule. Universal suffrage, he says, obviously summing up the long experience of German Social Democracy, is

"the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the present-day state."

The petty-bourgeois democrats, such as our Socialist-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks, and also their twin brothers, all the social-chauvinists and opportunists of Western Europe, expect just this "more" from universal suffrage. They themselves share and instil into the minds of the people the false notion that universal suffrage "in the modern state" is really capable of ascertaining the will of the majority of the toilers and of securing its realization.

From "The State and Revolution" (August-September 1917).

To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament—such is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics.

The same holds true for the working-class struggle against the bourgeoisie. Today there is no revolutionary situation, the conditions that cause ferment among the masses or heighten their activities do not exist; today you are given a ballot paper—take it. Learn how to organize in order to be able to use it as a weapon against your enemies and not as a means of getting soft parliamentary jobs for men who cling to their seats in fear of having to go to prison. Tomorrow, you are deprived of the ballot paper, you are given a rifle and a splendid quick-firing gun constructed according to the last word of engineering technique—take this weapon of death and destruction, do not listen to the sentimental whiners who are afraid of war. Much has been left in the world that *must* be destroyed by fire and iron in order that the emancipation of the working class may be achieved. And if anger and desperation grow among the masses, if a revolutionary situation arises, prepare to create new organizations and utilize these useful weapons of death and destruction *against your government and your bourgeoisie*.

From "The Collapse of the Second International" (from latter half of May to first half of June, 1915).

Only scoundrels or simpletons can think that the proletariat must win the majority in elections carried out *under the yoke of the bourgeoisie*, under the yoke of wage-slavery, and that only after this must it win power. This is the height of folly or hypocrisy; it is substituting voting, under the old system and with the old power, for class struggle and revolution.

The proletariat wages its class struggle and does not wait for voting to begin a strike, although for the complete success of a strike it is necessary to have the sympathy of the majority of the working people (and, it follows, of the majority of the population); the proletariat wages its class struggle and overthrows the bourgeoisie without waiting for any preliminary (supervised by the bourgeoisie and carried out under its oppression) voting; and the proletariat is perfectly well aware that for the success of its revolution, for the successful overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the sympathy of the majority of the working people (and, it follows, of the majority of the population) is *absolutely necessary*.

From "Greetings to Italian, French and German Communists" (October 10, 1919).

The Bernsteinites accepted and accept Marxism *with the exception* of its directly-revolutionary aspect. They consider parliamentary struggle not as one of the means of struggle, suited particularly to certain historical periods, but as the chief and almost the exclusive form of struggle, which makes "violence," "seizure," "dictatorship," unnecessary. Exactly this vulgar petty-townsmen distortion of Marxism is now also being carried over to Russia by the Messrs. Blank and other liberal praisers of Plekhanov. They have become so used to this distortion that they do not even consider it necessary to give proofs for consigning Marxist principles and ideas to oblivion in the period of the revolutionary whirlwind.

From "Cadet Victory and the Tasks of the Workers' Party" (March 24-28, 1906).



*The man on the left is holding Quotations of Chairman Mao Tsetung, the "Little Red Book" that symbolised the Cultural Revolution and was studied by hundreds of millions in China and around the world.*

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Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party  
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# Down with the Blood-soaked Capitalist Regime in China!

Just over one decade since their treacherous coup in 1976 the new Chinese bourgeoisie headed by revisionist kingpin Deng Xiaoping and butcher Li Peng has finally been totally unmasked. From behind the deceitful pretence of "socialism" and "people's democracy", the true reactionary face of the capitalists running China has thrust itself out plainly and grotesquely. They savagely unleashed a virtual war against more than a million students, youth, workers and other residents of Peking who demanded political rights and dared to expose and rebel against the stifling climate of corruption and economic crisis resulting from the last 13 years of capitalist rule and bourgeois dictatorship. They displayed an unprecedented ferocity and barbarism unknown to the Chinese people and the peoples of the world for the almost three decades of communist rule and people's power under Mao Tsetung and the revolutionaries between 1949 and 1976.

Learning from their imperialist patrons, especially the United States and Japan, the revisionist rulers of China shamelessly pulled out all their imported "modern" technology and know-how of suppression and manipulation to crush the rebellious masses. With heavy weapons like tanks, armoured lorries, and machine guns, they fired their deadly Western-bought bullets directly into the crowds of people, gunning down large numbers at point-blank range and rolling their tanks over tents filled with demonstrators. In the midst of this massacre, many students and workers who supported them heroically stood their ground and tried to persuade the "people's army" not to attack the people.

After the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, our class lost power in China. The revolutionary proletariat led by heroic leaders like Comrades Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao lost the last great battle against the revisionists and capitalist roaders who opposed Mao's road, and people's rule was defeated in China. With it disappeared the international proletariat's last fortress of socialism. The revisionists and capitalist roaders within the communist party, headed by the renegade Deng Xiaoping, twice toppled by Mao himself, and the likes of Hua Kuo-feng, Hu Yao-bang and Zhao Ziang, usurped state power in China. They set about destroying the socialist economy and socialist relations of production and establishing a system of private ownership with profit in command. Their motto was "To get rich is glorious" their highest goal was the pursuit of self-interest. They carried out a rapid, all-round restoration of capitalism and subjugation of the economy to imperialist finance capital and its market system, especially to the Western imperialists led by the U.S.

Thus, contrary to the pious and deceiving editorials of the Western propaganda mills which delight in muddling state capitalism and "communism" while trying to distance themselves from the "excesses" of the past weeks, the current rulers of China have done everything to destroy the socialist system as they ape anything and everything Western and capitalist. Up until their recent, ugly military performance, they earned, and received, the richly deserved praise of imperialist leaders East and West, including Deng's personal friend George Bush.

All of the social injustices the masses are protesting against—the dramatic rise in unemployment, sharp price increases, lack of housing, and the massive corruption of Deng's government—are the inevitable outcome of the restoration of capitalism in China. And the criminal butchery by the ruling class there is just an extension of the horrors, violence, and suffering that the imperialist system brings down upon the majority of the people all over the globe. The abrupt interruption in arms shipments and crocodile tears of outrage shed by the Eastern and Western rulers suddenly detaching themselves from Deng Xiaoping, who only yesterday they hailed as the "great reformer", are merely to cover over this fact.

The loss of people's rule also inevitably meant that the masses of workers, peasants, and revolutionary intellectuals would be deprived of real democracy and that democracy would become the property of the handful of exploiters now at the head of the party who would exercise dictatorship over the people. And even some of the middle class forces who were deceived into supporting the restoration of capitalism by Deng & Co. under the allure of moving into the "modern" era and who stood to benefit from the new promotion of the upper strata of society are now also rebelling against the rotten fruits of capitalism, including some of the students being groomed to take over the country's top posts. Getting to the essence of the question one worker in Tiananmen Square who was wearing a Mao button told the reporters: "The problem is that the masses are no longer the masters of society in China."

For three decades the Chinese masses exercised the right to participate in ruling society—the right to interfere in matters of state and to set the direction society would take, as Mao put it. This is the democracy that was withheld from bigshots like Deng and his ilk who sought power for themselves. They did not have the "democratic" right—so dear to the capitalist world—to exploit the workers and peasants. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution was aimed at strengthening the hand of the proletariat and masses of peasants, enabling them to wage the political struggle necessary to defeat the designs of the capitalist roaders and to successfully move China ahead along the socialist road towards a world without classes or exploiters.

Despite the extreme force being deployed today by the crisis-ridden revisionist rulers, the prospects of reestablishing "order" are dim; this is the true nightmare that plagues the Western imperialists and Soviet social-imperialists. The pro-Soviet regimes of Cuba, the German Democratic Republic and Vietnam have all applauded the massacre, while Gorbachev remains conspicuously silent.



Mao's prediction in a letter back in 1966 to his comrade-in-arms and wife Chiang Ching, has indeed come true: "If the Rightists stage an anti-Communist coup d'etat in China, I am sure they will know no peace either and their rule will most probably be short-lived because it will not be tolerated by the revolutionaries who represent the interests of the people making up more than 90 percent of the population."

Whatever the immediate outcome of the present upsurge by the millions of Chinese people, new openings have appeared for making another socialist revolution by overthrowing the present regime and reestablishing the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is going to be a difficult and tortuous road, yet the Chinese masses have a rich legacy of decades of people's war under Mao's leadership against the Kuomintang reactionaries and the U.S. and Japanese imperialists as well as of struggle against Soviet revisionism, but most importantly in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. It is only Mao's road that will lead to genuine liberation for the Chinese masses, an act that would represent an unprecedented leap toward emancipation for all of humanity.

Yet if China is to be liberated, another Maoist party must be built which can lead the people forward and draw a clear demarcation from the illusory paths which rely on a faction of top party officials. Such a responsibility will fall on the shoulders of a core of revolutionaries armed with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and this is something the reactionaries in China and all imperialist powers are extremely keen to prevent. The present party ruling China is a bourgeois party which, despite its name, no longer has anything to do with communism. The People's Liberation Army is no longer an army of the people, and has not been since it was used to suppress Mao's followers in 1976. Neither top party officials at odds with Deng nor dissident army commanders can lead the people to reestablish their rule. It is nonetheless significant and admirable that a great many soldiers have refused to fire on the masses, and to the degree they continue to oppose the political masters commanding the reactionary military machinery that is a welcome event.

The genuine Chinese communists and masses of workers, peasants, and revolutionary students who set out to follow this tortuous path are not alone. Mao also instructed the genuine communists of the world what to do if the "right seizes power in China." He said, "If the leadership in China is usurped by the revisionists in the future, the Marxist-Leninists of all countries should relentlessly expose them and fight against them and help the Chinese masses in their battle against the revisionists."

Since the coup in 1976, the genuine Marxist-Leninists of the world have been doing just that. The regrouping of the Maoists on an international scale in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement who are either waging revolutionary war, as in Peru today, or preparing for it in different countries, are forging ahead on the path charted by Mao Tsetung. We are confident that the genuine revolutionaries in China will make great strides in their struggle to overthrow capitalist rule and put China once again on Mao's road. We pledge to do everything in our power to assist them. May the world proletarian revolution speak in Chinese once again!

**Proletarian Revolution Will Avenge the Blood  
That Has Been Spilt in Tiananmen Square!**

**Expose Deng's Imperialist Accomplices  
East and West!**

**Free Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao!**

**Mao Tsetung Did Not Fail!  
Revolution Will Prevail!**

Released 12 June 1989 by the Information Bureau of RIM

# THE REDFERN POLICE RAID

The Tactical Response Group, (TRG) an elite unit trained to deal with terrorism, highjackings, sieges, and violence, dressed in full riot gear, armed with shot guns, batons, sledge hammers, bullet proof vests, riot shields, dogs and a video unit to film the raid, formed into three main groups of about 100 and raided the Aboriginal community in Redfern, an inner city suburb of Sydney.

The TRG officers hit the houses at 1 am, smashed down doors and dragged suspected victims from the houses. The Police Minister admitted that the movements of the Aborigines in the area had been under surveillance by telescope from the nearby TNT tower for three months.

The enraged residents told how they awoke to find officers standing over them with guns pointed at them. One resident, who awoke to sounds of her front and back doors being kicked in said, " I looked up at a police man standing over me with a gun pointed at my temple. They kept screaming at me they were looking for a man they believed was living in the house." Another said, "the raid was typical of South African style fascist and Gestapo like tactics."

Sydney's Aboriginal community has called for an inquiry into the many raids on Redfern. In response Blacks and whites demonstrated outside the Redfern Local Court. The police warrants stated they were searching for drugs, guns and stolen property. They found no drugs or guns and departed with \$5000 worth of goods, not yet established if the property was stolen. Redfern is inhabited by workers, the unemployed, some students and in the Everleigh Street area Aborigines.

Ten days after the dawn raid, when police were making a "routine" drive through Redfern, they tried to arrest a youth. The six police were forced to retreat after being pelted with bricks and bottles.

The repeated raids on Redfern have convinced the people that the raids are politically motivated and another form of "black-bashing". They believe the government is trying to force the people out of the area to realize the prime real estate values, and step up gentrification. At a meeting of residents one said, "I've been living in this area since the 1930's and I'm not prepared to walk out and let some middle class bugger take over my land". The people restated their determination to bring to justice the cop murderer of David Gundy. David, a 32 year old Aborigine was shot by police in his home in Marrickville on 27 April 1989 during another bungled raid. In August '89 a NSW Coroners Court jury found that a police officer's gun had fired accidentally killing Mr Gundy. The people of Redfern remain unconvinced.

The Aboriginal community accuse the police of harrassment. Local teenagers told the Human Rights Commission last year of being picked up by police and then bashed and stripped for no reason. The Human Rights Commissioner remarked the situation was close to urban warfare. The above events seem to confirm that.

As Redfern's "Auntie" said, " We've got to get up or we may as well die". The Aboriginal people are standing up!

We must support every outbreak of protest and rebellion !

## OH MY GOD, THIS GUN IS GOING TO GO OFF'

could have happened in  
eto, said one witness. Or  
ewhere in Chile.

six-year-old boy said: "The  
ce had guns pointed at me. They  
e into my room. I was scared. I  
ght they were going to take  
away."

another witness, Tonnette Simp-  
34, described how police  
ntened her husband and her  
year-old son with a pistol  
rresting her.

They just smashed down the  
and there were eight police in  
edroom," she recounted.

My two-year-old son ran to his  
because he was scared and I

thought: 'Oh my God, this gun is  
going to go off'."

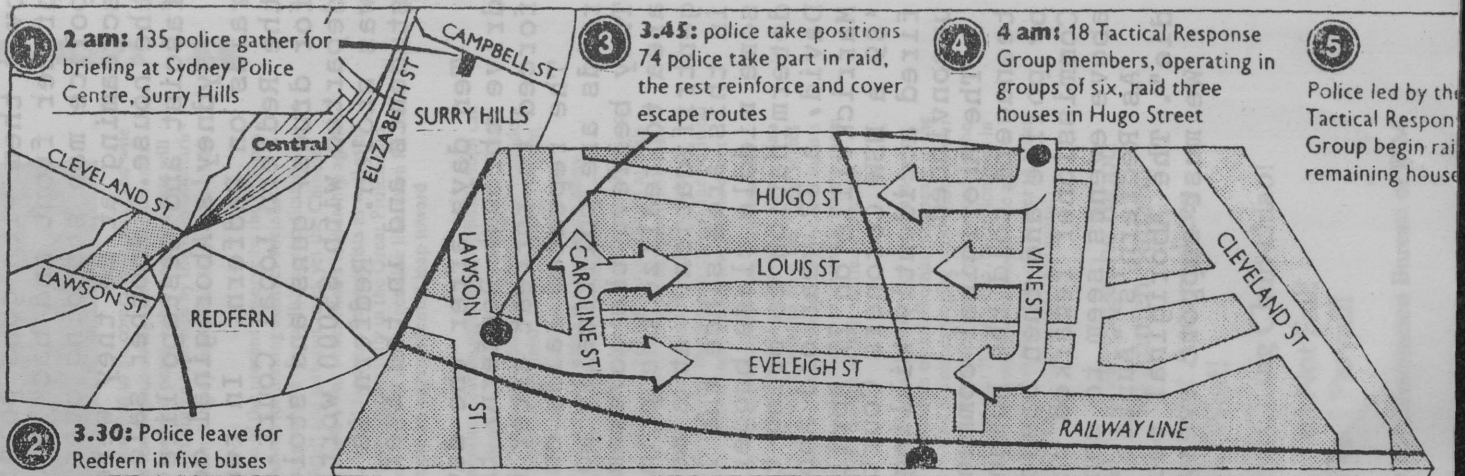
Darby Ward, who was wanted on  
a 14-year outstanding warrant,  
recalled: "They [the police] kicked  
in the door and just walked in.

"They marched up into my  
bedroom, pointed a gun at me and  
said: 'Get downstairs'."

Amid the bitterness and anger in  
the Redfern Aboriginal community  
yesterday, much of the concern was  
for how the children were coping.

An Aboriginal primary school  
attendance officer, Ms Pam Kelly,  
said she had come across a group of  
children in Redfern yesterday who  
refused to go school.

## THE RAID ON REDFERN



MOUNTING TROOPS: Police gather at the ready



ARREST: Into the paddy wagon

## LABOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, WELFARE AND THE REAL PROLETARIAT.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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Part of the process of promoting the revolutionary solution in Australia remains the exposure of the Tweedledee-Tweedledum nature of the Labor-Liberal sideshow.

This article focusses on the perverse economic recovery that the ALP seems so proud of. Emphasis is given to the role that the welfare state has played in this and the impact of this on our revolutionary communist analysis and strategy.

### HAWKE LABOR IN OFFICE.

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The ALP is frequently seen by sections of the bourgeoisie to have the advantage of being more easily capable of reorganizing the economic and social system. The ALP can take action which hurts individual capitalists for the good of Australian capitalism as a whole. (Catley and Mcfarlane 1974). This is precisely what the Communist Manifesto was alluding to when it declared:

"The executive of the modern state is but a committee managing for the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie" (Marx and Engels 1975:33).

Hawke Labor's championing of a cosmetically benign belt-tightening must be seen against this backdrop of rejuvenating Australian industry and business in the larger strategic interests of Australian imperialism. The government's rhetoric about social justice conceals the creation of institutional arrangements that provide for the more passive, mobile and flexible workforce needed in restructuring Australian industry. Put another way, this government's solution to the economic recession of 1982-83 has been a perverse recovery, driven by ruling class imperatives, and with strategic consequences. The latest figures on the economy show how fragile this recovery has been.

### UNDER-EMPLOYMENT.

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Between 1973 and 1988 more part-time than full-time jobs were created. Of all the part-time jobs 80% are held by women. (Berry and Kitchener 1989:12) The collapse of traditional full-time work has been considerable.

Since 1986 only 3 industries - wholesale and retail trade; finance, property and business services; and recreation, personal and other services - have grown as a percentage of the total workforce. These new jobs are mostly part-time and filled by women. The casual nature of work is continuing to grow. It produces a larger workforce with less job security and no benefits such as superannuation or paid leave. Enormous savings have consequently flowed to employers.

That the increase in part-time employment reflects an increase in underemployment (rather than the hedonistic leisure pursuits of youth is evidenced by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)) figures. In March 1989 25% of part-time workers aged 15-24 years would have preferred to work more hours. Nearly half of these people had actively looked for full-time work in the four weeks prior to surveying (ABS 1989). In 1984 the situation was the same. (ABS 1984).

Although the unemployment rate is ground 6.5% such an average figure hides the uneven distribution of unemployment. Some geographical areas are still suffering considerably in the wake of manufacturing's demise. Women and youth (especially indigenous and foreign born) are experiencing unemployment rates of 15-100%. The average unemployment rate for Black Australians is around 80%, even higher in rural areas. Immigrant workers also are experiencing high unemployment. In March 1989 the unemployment rate for persons born in : Lebanon was 28.6% ; Vietnam was 21.9% ; and, Asia generally was 12.9%. These figures are all respectively higher for women wokers.

It is these immigrant workers who historically make up the greater proportion of the employees in the low-paying and low-skilled niches of superexploitation in Australian industry. (Collins 1978 and 1988).

#### A POLARIZED LABOUR MARKET.

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As the RCP, USA's Raymond Lotta has pointed out, one of the defining characteristics of the advanced capitalist economies and labour markets in the post-World War II period is this division into a core and periphery sector. Core workers typically work in large scale, capital intensive, highly unionized industry receiving moderately high wages and assured of (relative) job tenure. Periphery workers are employed in smaller scale, typically labour-intensive industry, receiving fairly low wages, harsher conditions and less job security. Women and oppressed nationality workers have been crowded into this segment of the labour market.

This division is, of course, a simplification - segmentation is more complex - but it does capture a certain reality. The Australian reality included. (Collins 1978, Women's Bureau DEET 1988). For example, full time average wages for women were 78.3% of the male wage in August 1983. By August 1987, after four years of the Accord, they were 79.6% of the male rate. And when all workers - full and part time, adult and junior are considered - women's pay is only about 66.6 % of the male rate. (ABS 1987)

#### SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES ?

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Here is the backdrop against which the Hawke Labor's initiative in support for working families must be viewed.

The Family Allowance Supplement (FAS) was introduced in the 1987-88 Budget. It was preceded by the Family Income Supplement (FIS), introduced in 1983-84. FAS was developed by the Federal Government as the centrepiece of the package developed to meet Hawke's 1987 election promise that by 1990 there would be no child poverty.

Eva Cox has pointed to the important consequences which accompany FAS. FAS is targeted at the working, childrearing, poor households. It's arrival is recognition there are full time jobs which don't pay a living wage for a person with dependent children. FAS subsidizes low wage paying employers. "It means that these workers who receive a tax free supplement through this system will not agitate for increased pay rates because they are "better off" with the tax free supplement" (Cox 1989: 38)

Indeed, the Accord's commitment in the area of social security (i.e. the indexation of benefits and the targeting of single benefits to 25% of average weekly earnings) have taken the back seat in the Government's quest for proletarian passivity. (Burgess 1988)

The upper income for parents with one dependent child to remain eligible for FAS is now about \$17,000 a year. This amount, is now well over \$1,000 more than a significant proportion of workers earn after the latest wage increase. If this trend continues, it won't be long before hundreds of thousands of workers are receiving FAS.

The burgeoning pockets of poverty in this perverse economic recovery was also highlighted by a recent study which showed that unemployed couples can afford to support only one child to avoid sinking below the official poverty line (Green 1989).

#### THE DOWNWARDLY MOBILE WORKFORCE.

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The Hawke administration itself candidly admits to a significant shift in priorities within the social security system. (Australian Department of the Treasury 1988:143). Emphasis has been given to "encouraging" sole parents and the unemployed to (re)enter the workforce. Others have also observed this general tendency of Hawke's welfare initiatives to squeeze entitlement categories. (Stephenson 1987).



The Department of Social Security (DSS) has stepped up its harrassment and intimidation - policing welfare recipients under the banner of campaigns against social security fraud.

In 1987-88 sole parent pension review teams were responsible for 1168 termination/suspensions of pension. The expected number of sole-parent pensioners was expected to fall from 238,740 at 30 June 1988 to 236,000 at 30 June 1989. (Australia Department of the Treasury 1988:158)

Further initiatives during 1987-88 were the reduction in the maximum age at which a dependent child qualifies his/her parent for sole parents pension (25 years down to 16 years) and the phasing out of the Class B Widow's Pension (ibid).

In March 1989, the JET (Jobs, Education and Training) programme was introduced. In the words of the Hawke administration its aim is, "to assist and accelerate the transition of sole parent pensioners into paid employment". (Ibid: 157)

The scheme is supposed to assist those sole parents who will now be ineligible for pension when their youngest child turns 16 years old. The JET programme is little more than a cynical exercise in reducing sole parent pensioners without addressing the situation and long-term needs of the mainly female sole parents.

The Hawke Labor Government's campaign against sole parent pensioners will break new ground with the proposed changes to the Social Security Act's definition of a defacto relationship. The amending Bill (No.3 1989) establishes a presumption that will cut off many women from the pension simply because they share a house with a person from the opposite sex. The presumption clause will mean that the onus of proof will be on the pensioner to prove they are not living in a defacto relationship. (Australian Council of Social Service 1989).

Such a stricter co-habitation rule must also be seen as the reaffirmation of patriarchal family relationships which make women dependent on men for their welfare, particularly where sexual intercourse is occurring.

Together with female sole parent pensioners, the young unemployed make up the body of the "undeserving" poor in Hawke's corporate Australia.

As with female sole parent pensioners, the young unemployed have been scrutinized by DSS field officers. The (then) nineteen mobile employment benefit review teams were responsible for 14,300 termination from benefit in 1987-88. (Australian Department of the Treasury 1988) In the August 1989 Budget the government announced that ten more such review teams would be created in December 1989.

The May 1987 "Economic Statement" heralded the abolition of the dole for 16 to 17 year olds and, its replacement by the Job Search Allowance (Stephenson 1987: 173). The philosophical justification was the need to remove the financial incentive for young people to leave the education system. This was accomplished by aligning the JSA payment rates with AUSTUDY.

Additionally, the May 1987 Economic Statement announced the freezing of the intermediate rate of unemployment benefit (for 18 to 20 year olds). For claimants under 21 and single, the waiting period was extended to 13 weeks. (Stephenson 1987: 173).

JSA recipients unemployed for 6 months or more must also meet an expanded work test - the activity test- which includes the requirement that they must accept a CES deemed suitable job if offered. (Aust. Dept. of the Treasury 1988:167).

It is a Laborite delusion that improved training opportunities and schooling will encourage unemployed youth to give up their allegedly hedonistic leisure lives whilst they are re-trained and re-schooled ready for life on the dole at 18 rather than 16 years. (Presdee 1988:8)

Remaining on unemployment benefits for those aged 21-54 years is to be harder with the strengthening of the work test. The August 1988 Budget provided for enhanced use of Work Intention Forms to "ensure applicants for benefit are genuinely seeking work". (Aust. Dept. of the Treasury 1988:166)

## CONCLUSION.

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The Hawke Labor Government's economic recovery has not only overlooked segments of the population but led to intensified oppression. Two basic phenomena have been identified: Acknowledgement should be made of Raymond Lotta's analysis of these phenomena in the USA in several articles written by him in the Revolutionary Worker (voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the USA): (1) the creation of a downwardly mobile and polarized workforce, (2) the emerging trend of mass poverty.

The Hawke Labor Government's welfare initiatives aimed ostensibly at easing the declining living standards of the more oppressed sections of the Australian proletariat are primarily political manoeuvres.

They are a form of concessional social spending designed to politically demoralize and contain the more volatile sections of the masses. Whereas Gough Whitlam's welfare was about halting the social movements of the late 1960's and the early 1970's, Hawke's cold charity is about chilling out such a potential upheaval. Some of the Hawke

administration's initiatives like FAS and job training may also serve a function as subsidies to low wage employers, but this is secondary to their political character. The welfare state's activity - regardless of whether the party in office is Labor or Liberal - constitutes a specific intervention in the interests of the ruling class. It operates to guarantee the social conditions of capital accumulation in Australia. The welfare state of the Hawke Labor Government has facilitated the restructuring of the Australian economy by creating a more flexible and pliant workforce.

This critique of the welfare state must also be seen in the context of our analysis on the class structure in Australia. The Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, which our Committee supports, makes a significant point about the real proletariat in imperialist countries: that, "far from preaching the monolithic unity of the working class, Lenin demonstrated that imperialism inevitably leads to a shift in class relations, to a split in the working class in the imperialist countries between the oppressed and exploited proletariat and an upper section of the workers benefitting from and in league with the imperialist bourgeoisie" (p38)

The Declaration goes on to make the point that, "Imperialism sharpens the contradiction between these workers and a significant strata of the working class (including the industrial reserve army - the unemployed) who are impoverished and who desire and are inclined to fight for radical change. In the principal Western imperialist states this lower section of the working class is composed in no small measure of immigrant workers from the dominated countries as well as, in some cases, national minorities and oppressed nations from within the imperialist states themselves. It is this lower section of the working class that is the most important element of the social base of the party of the proletariat in the imperialist countries". (pp41-42)

This article has gone some way in identifying the lower section of the working class who is the real proletariat in terms of having nothing to lose here in Australia. But this is only a beginning. We must firmly plant ourselves, and step up our efforts, in our social base: the proletarians on the bottom of this society who truly have nothing to lose but the chains that bind them.

This position: of contributing to the world revolution by overthrowing imperialism in Australia through basing ourselves in the lower section of the working class; so that when and as a revolutionary situation develops we may forge a mass revolutionary party and not a reformist party concerned primarily with economic deals, is what distinguishes us, as supporters of the Revolutionary Internationalist International Movement from the revisionists, Trotskyites and social democrats that make up the "Left" in Australia.

Such so-called socialists deny the split in the working class in imperialist countries as Lenin pointed to in "Imperialism and the Split in Socialism" and which the Declaration of the RIM upholds. They appeal to the better unionized workers to go for a more militant trade unionism as if this will move the working class to a revolutionary position.

Our so-called socialists all deny the relevance of Lenin's, What Is To Be Done and not suprisingly. It is in What Is To Be Done that Lenin unmasks the futility and treachery of such economist views.

Making revolution in imperialist countries (such as Australia) is indeed charting an uncharted course. Necessarily emphasis is placed in struggling to put the correct politics in command. As Mao Tsetung had said:

" The correctness or otherwise of the ideological and political line decides everything. When the Party's line is correct, then everything will come its way.

If it has no followers, then it can have followers; if it has no guns, then it can have guns; if it has no political power, then it can have political power."

(Stuart Schram ed. Chairman Mao Talks to the People. p290.)

Mao's words are both a comfort and a challenge. Taking up theoretically and practically the need to go lower and deeper to the real proletariat is an essential stepping stone in acquiring the correct revolutionary theory which will illuminate our revolutionary practice.

MELB - AGE 30-9-89

## Officially they don't exist at all



The poverty trap ... Anniecia Mabbott and her children Jessie, 13 months, Terrence, 3, Kate, 5, Samantha, 6, Nicole, 7, and Paeterina, 9, in their Waterloo home.

By PAUL CHAMBERLIN

Meet Anniecia Mabbott and her six children, aged between 13 months and nine. According to the Prime Minister, they don't exist.

The Mabbott family lives in public housing in Waterloo. Much of Ms Mabbott's \$1,400 a month in Government benefits is spent on medicine. Five of the children are asthmatic and two of them are epileptic.

Helped by handouts from friends and charities, such as Dr Barnardo's, they manage to scrape by.

But, officially, the poverty in which the Mabbott children live doesn't exist. Mr Hawke told welfare groups on Thursday night that it had been eliminated six months ahead of schedule.

During the 1987 election campaign, Mr Hawke promised reforms to ensure that by 1990 no child would live in poverty. But later documents said: "We pledge that by 1990, no child will need to live in poverty."

### COMMISSION CHIEF DOESN'T AGREE

Professor Ronald Henderson, the chairman of the ground-breaking Commission of Inquiry into Poverty in 1975, said yesterday that he "could not agree entirely" with Mr Hawke's statement.

The inquiry established the "poverty line", now in widespread use, and showed that two million Australians lived beneath it.

He said many children were now above the line, but an estimate contained in the Burdekin Inquiry, released in February, putting 440,000 children below it, was accurate.

The National Inquiry into Homeless Children, a report by the Federal Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Brian Burdekin, found that Government measures such as the Family Allowance Supplement (FAS), uniform rent assistance for all FAS recipients and a means-test-free child disability allowance had brought about 200,000 children out of poverty.

□ PAUL CHAMBERLIN

Ms Mabbott, who can see no escape from her predicament, disagrees. "We're sort of the loophole in that statement. And there are hundreds of families around here just like us.

"If we eat porridge for breakfast every day, and get our clothing from St Vinnie's, then we might be meeting his level. But I don't think

Australians should be living like that."

And she had this challenge for Mr Hawke: "I'd like to swap with him for a month, or even a week. He wouldn't last a day."

She receives \$530 a fortnight in parent's benefit, supplemented by disability allowances for three of the children. It is her outgoings that

are causing the problems.

Recently taken off the medications free list was Prosobee, a soy formula her son, 13-month-old, Jessie, who cannot tolerate milk, needs. This alone costs about \$100 a fortnight.

And providing other medicine for the family can cost several hundred dollars a month. "We get nothing back on this at all. All the money for equipment, tubing, masks, nebulising pumps [for asthma], zinc powder, Zarontin [an anti-convulsant also taken off the free list], capsules and antihistamine capsules, comes straight from my pocket and doesn't go back in," she said.

"I go over budget by \$300 every month. The only way you can make it up is by begging at the Salvos for a food voucher, or doing the rounds of the charities for clothing. There's no other way to survive.

"It's not cheap, but what are your kids worth? You'll do it somehow. Even if I have to beg, I'll make sure they get what they need."

## Hawke's got his numbers correct

By MARGO KINGSTON

CANBERRA: Bob Hawke's hyperbole has got him into trouble, but contrary to the cries of outrage at his claim of having met his pledge to end child poverty, he was careful to define what he meant in his 1987 election speech.

The simplification was contained in the main address. He said: "We pledge that by 1990 no Australian child will be living in poverty."

The attachment to that speech was equally clear. "During Labor's third term, an adequate living standard for children will be achieved by raising child payments to ensure that total assistance per child moves from its current level of 11 per cent to at least 15 per cent of the combined married rate of pension [20 per cent for older children]."

This would be done by amalgamating the family allowance system with supplements for low-income families, and substantially boosting payments. And so it was, six months ahead of schedule, as announced by him this April.

Mr Hawke even entrenched the achievement by legislating to automatically index payments for inflation from January 1990.

The massive rises in support are shown by the fact that a family on \$320 a week with three children gets an extra \$109 a week, equal to a 50 per cent wage rise after tax.

Mr Hawke's speech on Thursday, which sparked public interest in the pledge, was old hat in the sense that since April, the Minister for Social Security, Mr Howe, Mr Keating and Mr Hawke have trumpeted the achievement.

Indeed, the irony for Mr Hawke — as pointed out by a long-time critic of the pledge, Democrat Senator Janet Powell, yesterday — is that this speech marked his first real admission that there was a long way to go to achieve the impossible.

He admitted that although the financial benchmarks had been met, it was not possible to "describe poverty in terms of dollars and cents."

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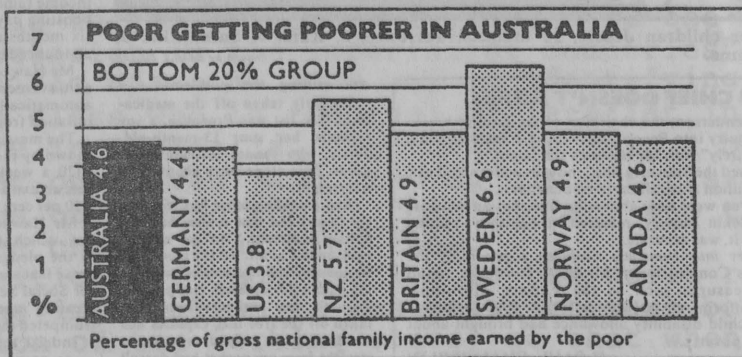
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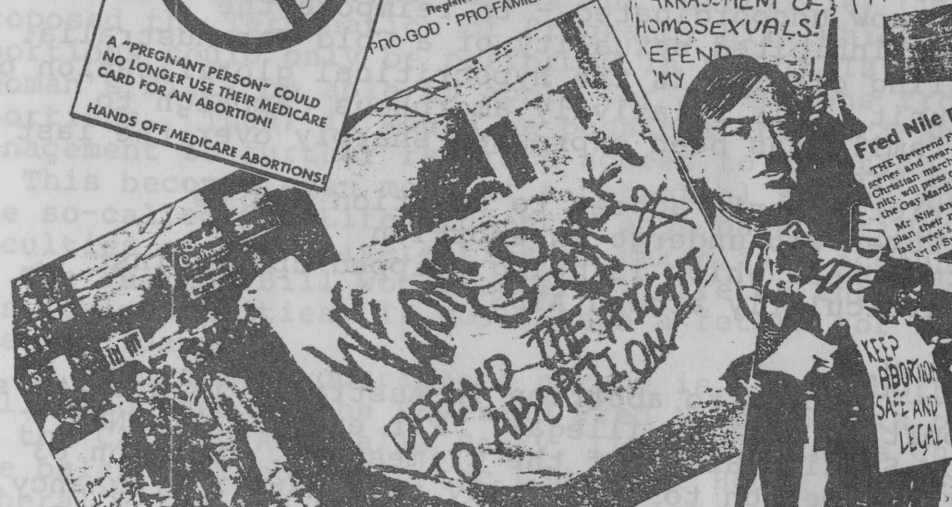
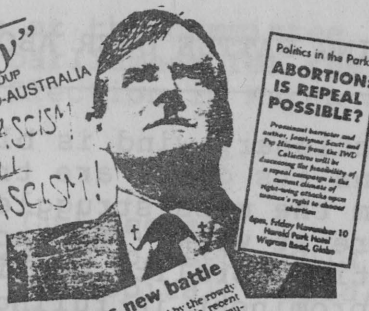
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**"For God and the Family"**  
 Registered Federal and State Electoral Name: CALL TO AUSTRALIA (FRED NILE) GROUP  
 CHILD - PRO-MORAL - PRO-AUSTRALIA  
 PRO-GOD · PRO-FAMILY · PRO-LIFE  
 STOP HARASSMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS!  
 DEFEND MY

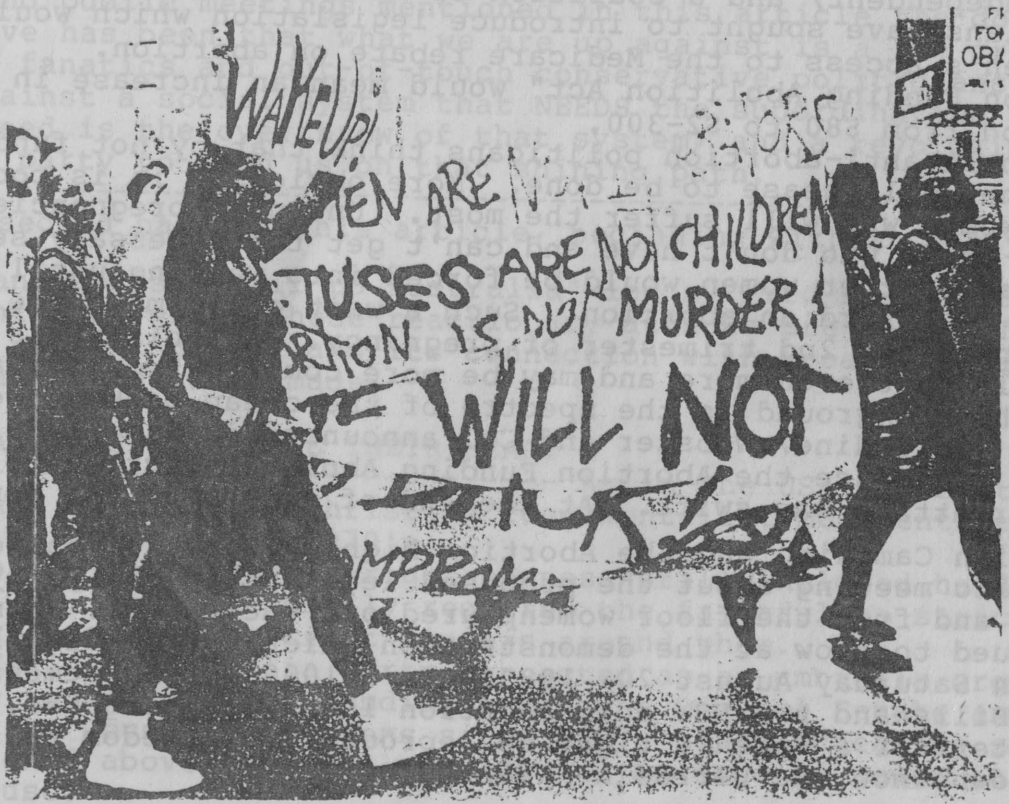


**Fred Nile plans new battle**  
 THE Reverend Fred Nile, undeterred by the recent...  
 Mr Nile and his followers met late last week to plan their next assault on homosexuals...  
 The Gay Mardi Gras...

**Solidarity Picket to Defend Women's Right to Choose**  
**Picket in solidarity with our sisters in the USA against the cuts to abortion access.**  
 More than one million US women are expected to...  
 10:30am Saturday November 11  
 Outside US Consulate  
 Car Elizabeth and Park St

**Women Must Have the Right to Choose—  
 No Forced Reproduction—  
 No Forced Sterilization!  
 Women are NOT Incubators!  
 Fetuses are NOT Children!  
 Abortion is NOT Murder!**

**Outlawing Abortion was—and IS—a Nazi Program!  
 Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women  
 As a Mighty Force for Revolution!**



## THE LOOMING BATTLE OVER ABORTION RIGHTS AND SEXUALITY.

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A reactionary wind is blowing across the land. From a variety of directions its gusts are trying to reverse what progressive developments grew from the mass struggles of the 1960's and 1970's. Forces are at work - for now uncoordinated - to reimpose the conservative morality and inhibited sexuality of a Cold War Australia.

Most prominent in ruling circles is the hypocritical glorification of the traditional family unit. This relatively amorphous campaign to uphold the patriarchal family has been expressed sharply over the last few years in two related areas:

- (1) the push to restrict women's access to abortion and to (re)criminalize women who undergo an abortion
- (2) the pogromist atmosphere which is being whipped up against homosexuals, particularly around AIDS.

### LIMITED ACCESS TO ABORTION.

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----- Access to abortion in Australia is a state's matter. Technically abortion remains illegal. For example, in NSW abortion is regulated by Section 82-85 of the Crimes Act. Section 83 makes it an offence for any person to unlawfully terminate a pregnancy. Interpretation of the word unlawful by Judge Levine in the case of R v. Wald in 1972 has meant that since then an abortion is legal, if it is necessary to protect the woman from serious danger to life or physical or mental health. Similarly in Victoria it is the 1969 ruling by Judge Menhennit in R v. Davidson which gives women access to abortion.

Such liberal judicial interpretation hardly grants free, safe, legal abortion on demand. (On appeal before a higher court a much more restrictive view of what is a legal abortion remains a possibility). Such a tenuous legal basis and other factors have contributed to Australia being rated poorly on access to abortion. According to "World Access to Birth Control", a report published in 1988 by the Population Crisis Committee in Washington DC, USA, the only industrialized country where abortion is less available is Rumania!

### THE THREAT FROM PARLIAMENT.

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At the federal parliamentary level Alisdair Webster (Liberal), Brian Harradine (Independent) and a coalition of anti-abortion parliamentarians have sought to introduce legislation which would restrict women's access to the Medicare rebate on abortion. This "Abortion Funding Abolition Act" would mean an increase in the cost of an abortion from \$80 to \$2-300.

Naively these anti-abortion politicians think that by not funding abortions, they will cease to be done. More obviously it is poorer proletarian women who will suffer the most. Unwanted pregnancies would increase for those who don't have and can't get the necessary several hundred dollars; other women would be forced into waiting until they had saved enough to afford an abortion. Such a wait could mean the woman may have reached her 2nd trimester of pregnancy. At this stage the abortion would cost even more and may be more complicated medically. Lurking in the background is the spectre of the cheap back street abortionist. Harradine, Webster and Co. announced in June 1989 their intention to introduce the Abortion Funding Abolition act. The outcry against their attack was swift. At the end of July 1989 the Women's

Abortion Action Campaign and the Abortion Rights Coalition called a well attended public meeting about the proposed legislation in Sydney. From the platform and from the floor women poured out their rage. Women's anger continued to flow at the demonstration which the meeting had called for on Saturday August 20, 1989. In a 1000 strong demonstration the Federal Bills and two NSW anti-abortion laws were targeted. A week later supporters of a women's right to reproductive freedom rallied in Canberra to denounce the Harradine/Webster Bills.

The Abortion Funding Abolition Act remains at the committee stage and did not reach the floor of Federal parliament for the limited debate expected, prior to the Federal Election in March 1990..

NSW: THE BATTLE LINES ARE BEING DRAWN.

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In NSW, the Liberal member for Hurstville, Guy Yeomans proposed the Termination of Pregnancy Bill which if passed would mean abortions could only be performed in hospitals. Hospitals would, under Yeoman's Bill, be able to apply for exemptions from performing abortions. Thus, it would be possible for anti-abortion doctors and management to further restrict access to abortion.

This becomes even more of a potential threat when the resurgence of the so-called Pro-Life student groups based primarily in the medical faculties of NSW universities is taken into account.

The Yeomans Bill would severely stretch the already limited NSW hospital facilities. It would mean a return for NSW women to the pre-1971 days.

Of even a more outrageous nature is the "Unborn Child Protection Bill" proposed by the Reverend Fred Nile and his bible-thumping bigots of the Call to Australia Party. Currently these Christian fascists hold the balance of power in the NSW Upper House between the governing Liberal Party and the "opposition" Labor Party.

Fred Nile's Bill proposes to ban all abortions except in "emergencies or exceptional circumstances", such as when the mother's life is in current danger and every other avenue to save the life of the "unborn child" - not the mother - has been considered. And straight from the days of Nazi Germany comes the Nile Bill's penalty provisions: 14 years for a doctor who performs an abortion and 3 years for the woman procuring the abortion.

In the face of these reactionary attacks women and men have been quick to demonstrate their anger and opposition. The official leaflet handed out calling for the November 11, 1989 demonstration in Melbourne and Sydney that was for solidarity with women in the USA whose abortion rights are under attack indicated where the thinking of reproductive rights activists is at : "So to the barricades for abortion rights! We are not going back to the days when women died at the hands of backyard butchers in the USA or in Australia"

This is fertile ground for the Maoist politics of our Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party. But it is not plain sailing. At all the rallies and public meetings mentioned in this article the dominant perspective has been that what we are up against is a few crazed religious fanatics and out-of-touch conservative politicians. Not so. We are up against a social system that NEEDS the subordination of women. What we need is the overthrow of that system, and a revolutionary communist party to lead us on that shining path.

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In the second half of this article, beginning with an analysis of the Christian fascist "Call to Australia" led by Fred Nile, a deeper questioning of where these reactionary attacks are coming from, and why this is happening now, and its connection with broader social and political concerns is made.

CHRISTIAN FASCISTS RAISE THEIR HEAD.

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As in the USA and Britain, the beginnings of a modern Christian fundamentalist movement started in Australia in the mid - 1970's.

While the path of self-righteousness still included handing your soul over to God, it additionally required the faithful to strictly enforce their values on the errant sinners around them.

The Call to Australia Party has acted as an umbrella organisation to nominate fundamentalist candidates in the Federal Senate and the NSW Legislative Council elections since 1977, with increasing success, and as mentioned above, currently holds the balance of power in the NSW upper house.

The repressive spirituality of the Call to Australia is fleshed out with the usual selection of right wing policies. Whereas the Call to Australia has received notoriety for its anti-homosexual, anti-abortion, anti-"permissive" and pro-"decency" platform - there has been little analysis of the overall political perspective of these scripture spouting reactionaries.

The slogan emblazoned on most Call to Australia literature is :

" Pro-God      Pro-Family      Pro-Life  
Pro-Child    Pro-Moral      Pro-Australia"

Saving the nation is the guiding vision of the Call to Australia, and for that matter the related organisations led by Fred Nile such as the Festival of Light. Fred and his wife Elaine Nile's 1987 election campaign brochure declared:

" a dangerous moral vacuum has developed in Australia which is being rapidly filled by the most vocal immoral minorities.

The Call to Australia under God's guidance is seeking to fill the vacuum with God's Truth and Law of Love for all people and to provide an umbrella organization for all decent Australians."

The petition which Fred Nile and Co. are circulating and presenting to parliament with a view to banning future Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parades in Sydney, similarly proclaims,

"....the homosexual lifestyle...is totally opposed to our Australian traditions and to the Judeo-Christian Ethic, which is the foundation ethic of our nation .... prohibit any future Homosexual and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parades .... in the future interests of our children and youth so that we can build a decent healthy , family centred lifestyle for all the citizens of our nation."

Redeeming the nation through the family is not without historical precedent not contemporary similarity. Nor is pandering to and popularizing the spontaneous forms of reaction, in times of economic and social crisis, from sectors of the population.

Indeed, there is more than a little today's Australia that has a Third Reich ring to it -- especially the reactionary offensive against women and homosexuals.

In the last few years we have seen the return of the blatantly sexist advertizement emblazoned on buses, bus shelters and the media. Advertizing everything from Penthouse magazine to chocolate flavoured milk. So too, the mother who waits hand and foot on her family and is a deemed failure unless her house is spotless and well stocked with all the right brands of food and soft drink is daily beamed into our loungerooms. And on the radio, reactionary megaphones like Ron Casey are lionized for his half-witted remarks about feminists.

Through it all we see that for the ruling class and its spokesmen, women are either to be madonnas or whores. But for the proletariat it is the feisty unrepentant woman that thumbs her nose at this reactionary offensive which we love to see.

Cowardly physical attacks on homosexual men have increased over the last few years at an alarming rate. Many have linked these attacks with the whipping up of a pogromist homophobia ( a fear and hatred of homosexuals) from not only Fred Nile and Co. but also from the more "responsible" conservative National / Country Party. On March 3, 1990 over 500 lesbians and gay men marched through Sydney streets to the offices of Nile's "Festival of Light", protesting the upsurge of anti-homosexual violence.

At another level we've had the witchhunts and jailing of militant trade unionists, apartheid style police raids on Black communities, and the continued rise of Black Deaths in Custody. As well we've seen the trumped up charges brought against representatives and supporters of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and prison activist Tim Anderson.



## LESSONS FROM GERMAN HISTORY.

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"Kinder, Kuche, Kirche" - children, kitchen, church - was the cornerstone of the Nazi definition of a "women's place". It was a designated goal for women to strive for. This ideology, like the rest of the fascist arsenal, did not spring into being on the day Hitler became Chancellor, it was fought for and against, for more than a decade during the Weimar Republic (1918-1933). One of the sharpest battle-grounds throughout the Weimar period was over abortion, with anti-abortion laws employed to enforce this KKK mentality.

Keeping women in line becomes all the more crucial in times of increasing social crisis and turmoil when, for whatever reason (often because of impending war), the social fabric is becoming severely strained and the ruling class has to put a lot on the line to make sure they stay on top.

This was indeed the case in Germany prior to World War II. And as in Nazi Germany, the call for a return to the "Christian values of God, nation and family" in Australia today, the offensive against homosexuality is intertwined with the battle over abortion.

In 1936 Heinrich Himmler, established the Reich's Central Agency for the Struggle Against Homosexuality and Abortion and in 1943 the Nazi law entitled "Protection of Family and Motherhood called for the death penalty in "extreme cases".

While Niles' NSW anti-abortion bill has only (!!) a 14 year maximum sentence, the similarity is there. And one of Fred Niles' colleagues from Tasmania, Gordon Henderson who is a fundamentalist minister, was quick to complain he had been mis-quoted in his call for gays to be "neutered" :

" I did not use the word 'suggest'.  
The word I used was 'encourage'.  
Such a word carries more com-  
passion and feeling". ( reported  
in the Sydney Star Observer 20.10.89, p10.)

The example of pre-World War II Germany's ideological and political campaign against women and homosexuality does provide some insight into the present push to reimpose more strictly traditional patriarchal heterosexual relations.

The Australian ruling class and its political representatives want to impose the model of the family where "father knows best" upon society as a whole as the only acceptable framework for sexual / social relations. The single parent, the working mother, the gay and lesbian are being ideologically shunned.

## REVOLUTION : MAO MORE THAN EVER !

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This pro-family bourgeois moralism is crucial for the ruling class as it was in Nazi Germany, to preparations for dealing with potential social upheaval and Australia's staking of claim in the imperialist world order.

But as the great revolutionary leader Mao Tsetung said: "Where there is oppression there is resistance". We've already seen resistance to the reactionary offensive against women and homosexuals. Resistance which will grow. For the rulers of Australia, this is dangerous. But for the proletariat and all those who seek an end to tradition's chains, this is an excellent situation.

Revolution is gaining ground around the world, and the looming battle over abortion and sexuality will create the opportunity and the responsibility, for us to prepare the ground for revolution here in the so-called lucky country. Opposing all the injustices of this system is necessary, but there is an entire unjust system of imperialist exploitation to be exposed, attacked and done away with.

Cast Away Illusions!  
REVOLUTION - ALL THE WAY!  
An Appeal to the People of Eastern Europe  
from the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

Marxism consists of thousands of truths, but they all boil down to the one sentence, "It is right to rebel!"  
- Mao Tsetung

The old order in Eastern Europe has been dramatically shaken. Where yesterday protest was whispered, today it explodes in fierce rebellion in the streets. The corrupt gang of E. European "communist" party bosses are now reeling, scorned and reviled. The situation is excellent!

But for the guardians of the established order East and West, things have gone far enough; they warn darkly of "mob rule" and direct people to "settle down" and "get back to business" -- "the revolution is over", they declare. We Maoists in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement reply: No! The revolution has only just begun -- and it still has a long way to go.

The sight of the former bosses of E. Europe hounded and on the run has given joy to the world's oppressed. These were great criminals. In the name of communism, these "red bourgeoisie" exploited the toiling masses, they talked piously of "egalitarianism" while stuffing millions into Swiss banks, they declared their "proletarian internationalism" while enforcing Soviet social-imperialism's empire from Czechoslovakia to Afghanistan, they quoted Lenin while secretly living like the Tsar. Today their parties are tossing aside the label of "communist" and adopting new names -- fine, let them call themselves what they are: the Party of Privileged Parasites or, more precisely, the Party of Bureaucrat Capitalists.

For capitalists is what they are. It is said that E. Europe is being rocked by the "crisis of communism" -- but E. Europe is not communist! Does anyone seriously believe that Honecker, Zhivkov, Jaruzelski and their parties were struggling to advance the world revolution towards Marx's vision of classless society? How ridiculous. The doddering corrupt old dictators who ran E. Europe were the representatives of bourgeois classes that exploit the masses in much the same way that capitalists do anywhere else. They used the forms of socialism they inherited, but the essence was the same: a small minority used their control of the means of production and the state to suck the blood of the workers and accumulate wealth and privilege. Some, like the E. German bourgeoisie, even rose to become imperialists, and profit from activities abroad, in Angola, Cuba and elsewhere.

Today, the entire Soviet social-imperialist bloc is in such deep crisis that its most powerful rulers, Gorbachev and the Soviet bourgeoisie themselves, have undertaken a program of unprecedented change. This has unleashed decades of pent-up fury, resulting in an explosion of anger and protest from below. The ruling classes are divided and in disarray; the masses of people have awakened to political life.

Unparalleled opportunity exists to intensify the struggle of the people, but in developed capitalist countries like E. Europe, such moments are rare and short-lived. By common consent, the ruling classes of East and West are deploying their considerable forces to establish a new stability. Either you will advance the people's struggle in the face of this, or you will be defeated by the masters old and new.

Stabilisation is now the common programme of all the ruling classes. One of the chief weapons in their arsenal is the introduction of the parliamentary democracy that so many of you look to. They say that because you now have parliamentary democracy you can cease your fight, that this democracy is the guarantee that you can solve your problems and better your lives. This is a lie. Look at Poland: why is it that despite the collapse of the vicious martial law regime, despite the introduction of multiparty elections, free press, free speech, and even the electoral victory of the pro-Western opposition, the suffering of the masses has become even worse?

Parliamentary democracy has never brought freedom to the broad masses. Everyone is free and equal, it is said, "one man, one vote"; but one class controls the wealth and power -- the means of production, the mass media, the army and police -- and is free to use all this to exploit, suppress and manipulate the people. Parliamentary democracy is a means by which capitalist rule is disguised as the rule of the people; the masses' hopes are pinned to illusions that one or another representative of the ruling class will bestow changes upon them, instead of relying on the only force for real change: the revolutionary struggle of the people themselves.

Parliamentary democracy is democracy for the privileged. They now have more competition in their own ranks over who will have what share of the rights to rule and exploit and live leisured lives. New sections of the elite previously out of power are being let into the privileged ranks. "Comrade" party bosses will give way to modern Western-style executives, collective farm managers will be replaced by big farm owners -- but often it is the old party managers who will become the new owners, since they have the money, connections and know-how to profit from the new opportunities. But the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a small minority, and the propertyless and powerless condition of the broad masses, will remain unaltered, for this is the essence of capitalism in both its Eastern and Western forms.

It is not democratic reforms from above but the people's struggle from below together with the disarray of the rulers that has brought forth any truly fresh and vital change. Look at the seizure and destruction of the Stasi headquarters in E. Berlin. Imagine what would happen if youth in democratic W. Germany were to try to storm the secret police headquarters there -- how many would be gunned down, how many imprisoned? Look at Romania, where across the country workers have gone on strike, held mass meetings, forced out hated factory administrators and chosen new ones themselves. Such things rarely happen in the "democratic" West, and if they do they are quickly and viciously suppressed. As soon as your

ruling regimes get back on their feet, then they too are sure to crush any such fruits of popular power -- undoubtedly under the banner of protecting the new-born democratic power!

As for the grand promises of change to be wrought by free enterprise and Western investment: a few privileged will benefit, the basic masses won't. Look at what Western technology is bringing Poland: some get computers, others get laid off. Competition is intensifying, as is polarisation; the rich grow richer and the poor poorer. But make no mistake: all these measures chiefly serve to accelerate processes already going on. Profit has been the driving force of the E. European economies for years; the gap between the rich and poor was already enormous; total debt to Western banks already stands at near \$100 billion -- every year they suck billions in interest payments out of E. Europe.

The change in E. Europe is not from stagnant socialist economies to dynamic capitalist ones, but from disguised to undisguised capitalism. What is new is a desperate attempt by your rulers to replace inefficient capital with efficient capital, to streamline the mechanisms of exploitation and make the wheels of capital accumulation turn even faster, including by expanding the share of the Western imperialists in this process.

Look at what's already going on in Poland and Hungary, where Western penetration and Western-style reforms have gone farthest. How many more soup kitchens will Poland need, as hundreds of thousands are laid off because factories and mines are "not profitable"? How many more homeless will join the thousands already huddling on Budapest's streets, because new housing is "not profitable"? The regimes are now freed up from the compromises made by the state capitalists to maintain the facade of socialism; like people in the West, you are free not only to vote, but to be unemployed and homeless.

Western propagandists tell you to forget the evidence from Poland and Hungary of what more Western penetration will mean for you; look instead to Germany, Scandinavia or France -- if you adopt democracy and join Europe, someday you too will live like this, they claim. What poison pours from their lips! Of course the West is richer -- it has been more successful than its Soviet-bloc rivals in building a worldwide empire. Their exploitation fields stretch from Chile's copper mines to South Africa's gold mines up through the Middle East oil fields through South Asia and into the Far East, where tens of millions produce textiles and electronics for pennies an hour. Because the West is richer and has a relatively large middle class, it can allow some of its people to say what they want (some of the time) and go abroad (if they can afford it). The West is not rich because it is democratic, it is democratic because it is rich and it is democracy for the rich; the secret of its riches, and hence of its democracy, lies in its empire built on bloody conquest and maintained through savage wars like Vietnam, continual invasions of little countries like Panama, Grenada or the Malvinas, and perpetual misery and suffering for hundreds and hundreds of millions under apartheid regimes and military juntas and including within the borders of the imperialist countries themselves. If you want to know what

Western democracy is really about, turn off Radio Free Europe and find the way to ask South Africa's blacks, or Palestinians in the Gaza strip, ask Arab dustmen in Paris or Turks in Hamburg, ask England's coal miners or Chicago's ghetto inhabitants -- get them to tell you about the "marvels" of Western democracy. Or you can just wait to find out for yourselves.

The Western imperialists' promise of better lives if you tie your dreams to them amounts to an invitation to join them in their plunder of the world's people. It is a shameful invitation; it is also a lie, a lure to get you onto their hook. Do you really think they're going to allow the likes of Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian workers to pull up a chair and dine on the fruits of their worldwide plunder side by side with respectable German burghers?! Of course not. They don't want to and they can't, for the Western imperialists are also facing a worldwide crisis. There is simply no room left at the imperialists' feast for more chairs. At most a few crumbs will be tossed to your elites -- if they learn to beg properly -- while the majority of you will find that you are to be served up as part of the next course! It is time to cast away illusions. You Polish professors teaching your students about the Swedish social welfare system, you Romanian doctors drawing up health care plans based on the French model -- Wake up before it is too late! You have drunk too much of their German schnapps and French champagne-- better try some Yugoslav brandy or Portuguese madeira, for there are the models which the Western imperialists have in mind for you.

Do we exaggerate? Consider their plans for Poland. Have the German imperialists remoulded themselves, do they now generously and unselfishly want to build up a new, prosperous, strong Poland, as they claim -- or are they scheming and plotting to subordinate the Polish people as subjects of a new Reich stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea? Just look at the new swagger in the W. German rulers' step as they goosestep around Central Europe, or listen to the strains of "Deutschland Uber Alles" belching forth from W. Germany's Parliament or the chauvinist crowds chanting "Ein Volk! Ein Vaterland!", and you know the answer.

There are those of you, particularly from E. Germany, who might be able to successfully integrate yourselves into this nightmare: you will find that living in the belly of this powerful imperialist beast exacts a severe price. The drive for a German Reich helped fuel two bloodbaths already and produced the concentration camps which shocked the entire world. But such horrors have not even given pause to the German imperialists' renewed march to Greater Germany. We say, Deutschland, never again!

We know that words like "Marxism" and "proletarian revolution" sometimes sound in your ears just like "democracy" and "freedom fighter" do to Westerners who have heard them used to justify the US war against Vietnam or CIA goons in Central America. But even as the Soviet bloc rulers buried genuine Marxism and kept only a deceptive mask to legitimise their oppressive rule, Mao Tsetung rose to oppose their betrayal of Marx and Lenin. He showed how they had restored capitalism and he called for a new revolution in the

USSR and E. Europe. Mao upheld the accomplishments of the October Revolution under Lenin and Stalin, including Stalin's leadership of the Soviet people in defeating the Nazi invaders in World War 2, but he recognised that Stalin made serious errors, that he failed to understand that the revolution had to be continued so as to prevent the rise to power of a new class of bureaucrat capitalists, as indeed happened. Mao showed how socialism is a transition period, full of revolutionary leaps and struggle, to classless society, it means the proletarians and all those who have been on the bottom of society for generations rising up and seizing and wielding power themselves -- not a stagnant bureaucratic system where party bigshots govern "on behalf of" the people.

Mao sought to avoid the fate of the USSR by mobilising the biggest mass movement in human history, the Cultural Revolution, to drag would-be party bigshots from their thrones and chase them from power. This sent Brezhnev and your own rulers into a frenzy; they declared Mao a "madman" and vilified, distorted and, most of all, censored his teachings. For many years the Chinese people succeeded in fighting off attempts to reverse the revolution, however, following Mao's death, Deng Xiaoping & Co seized power and restored capitalism in China; the bloody fruits of this were seen in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Even though capitalism was restored, the struggle waged during the Cultural Revolution gave the present generation in China a revolutionary point of reference that people in the USSR and E. Europe sorely lack. That Mao's authentically revolutionary vision is still alive could be seen on Beijing's streets as many workers carried pictures of Mao and called for a new socialist revolution, and student rebels sang "The Internationale".

In the last few years Maoist forces from around the world have gathered in the RIM and are waging revolutionary struggle against all oppressive systems, East and West. Wherever they exist, the organisations of the RIM have sought to mobilise those who have nothing to lose, the downtrodden proletarians and their allies, to rise up in revolt and to organise for the revolutionary overthrow of the ruling classes. The RIM salutes the rebellion of the peoples of East Europe and calls on you to attack the old order more thoroughly, more radically and with more determination, to take up the revolutionary weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought which your rulers have hidden from you, and to establish contact with the RIM and its participating organisations so as to strengthen the ties of those from all parts of the world who are resolved to struggle until all oppression and exploitation under any name are done away with forever.

Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement  
20 February 1990

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AFTER THE NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS

# CAST AWAY ILLUSIONS

the criminals who rule the U.S. empire has to be OUTRAGED at the extortion scheme behind the victory of the U.S.-backed UNO coalition in the February 25 Nicaraguan elections. After a decade of cruel and murderous aggression against Nicaragua, the U.S. rulers gave the Nicaraguan people an ultimatum: vote against the Sandinistas, or face *more* years of Contra war and enforced poverty. And the invasion of Panama drove home the point that the U.S. is willing to use direct and massive military action to get its way. This was U.S.-style Mafioso democracy in action all the way.

But among people who have supported the Nicaraguan revolution and resistance against U.S. intervention, there is also shock, confusion and even demoralization over how the elections turned out. Many people were already becoming very concerned in the months leading up to the elections because of the promise by the Sandinistas to stop support for the FMLN guerrillas fighting the U.S.-backed regime in El Salvador. Broad numbers of activists in the U.S. and worldwide had seen the road taken by the Sandinistas in Nicaragua as the way forward for oppressed people in other countries. Now these convictions and assumptions are being shaken by the Sandinistas' loss of power.

The UNO/U.S. victory in the elections is no reason to give up on the prospects for revolution in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Latin America. But it is reason to take a hard look at what is the REAL road to liberation for the oppressed.

The Sandinistas and their revolution are in serious crisis, pushed there by the unjust and devastating war by the U.S. and other pressures—and also by the Sandinistas' own program and outlook. The Sandinistas were formed as an "anti-imperialist front" and represented sections of the petty bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie whose interests collided with the hated U.S. puppet, Anastasio Somoza. The front led the 1979 revolution that overthrew Somoza and made some changes in society, such as taking over lands and property that used to be owned by the Somoza family.

But the revolution was not carried forward to fully unleash and mobilize the initiative of the oppressed masses, smash the old reactionary relations in society, and break thoroughly with the whole structure of imperialist domination, both West and East. Instead, the Sandinistas tried to reach an understanding with U.S. imperialism and get a Yanqui stamp of approval on their rule in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas also asked for "aid" from the Soviet imperialist bloc. This "aid" came under a phony "socialist" label, but it became another rope that bound Nicaragua to continued imperialist domination. These ropes of domination became increasingly tighter—pulled by the U.S. as well as the Soviet powers.

the U.S. but rather a *change in terms* under the overall relations of dependence. But even this was unacceptable to Uncle Sam. As Latin America as a whole plunges deeper into explosive crisis, the U.S. rulers are desperate to get rid of any regime that does

not toe the line they set. Nicaragua became the target of all kinds of vicious U.S. intervention.

The Sandinistas also found the rug pulled from under their feet by Gorbachev's "new thinking" in foreign policy. The Soviets' imperialist program includes dominating some areas of the world outright as well as hooking countries like Nicaragua and movements like the ANC in South Africa into economic and military reliance on the Soviet bloc. As part of this, the Soviets have urged these countries and movements not to break fully with the U.S. bloc and even to join in coalitions or "power-sharing" arrangements with pro-U.S. forces. Now, in order to better compete for world power with the West, the Soviets are making some shifts in how they operate in the Third World, including cutting back aid to Nicaragua and some other countries and movements.

People who pinned their hopes on the Soviets as "natural allies of the oppressed" are having to face a rude awakening because of the Soviet shifts in tactics. The two sharply opposed roads are becoming even clearer: the road of Maoist revolution, or the road of compromise and deal-making with the imperialist powers.

The Sandinistas went further down the road of back-stepping negotiations and accommodation with the U.S., leading finally to the agreement to hold the election under U.S.-imposed rules and supervision. Their logic was that U.S. aggression will stop and "everything will be better" if Nicaragua held a U.S.-approved election. The Nicaraguan people followed the lead of the Sandinistas and carried out the Sandinista strategy to its "logical conclusion"—by voting *against* the Sandinistas! For if "better relations" with the U.S. was the goal, who could better guarantee it—the Sandinistas or the U.S.-created UNO?

Maoist revolutionaries have an analysis of why non-proletarian "anti-imperialist" fronts like the Sandinistas cannot lead an all-the-way struggle against imperialism.

As the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* puts it: "While such revolutionary formations have led heroic struggles and even delivered powerful blows to the imperialists they have been proven to be ideologically and organisationally incapable of resisting imperialist and bourgeois influences. Even where such forces have seized power they have been incapable of carrying out a thoroughgoing revolutionary transformation of society and end up, sooner or later, being overthrown by imperialists or themselves becoming a new reactionary ruling power in league with imperialists."

today the only genuine road for oppressed people in countries like Nicaragua is the new-democratic revolution. This revolution must be led by the proletariat—the class that has NO interest in keeping ANY chains of oppression. Only the proletariat and its party can unite with the masses of peasants, petty bourgeoisie and even sections of the bourgeoisie to wage a people's war to overthrow the reactionaries, break with imperialist domination, and carry forward the struggle

Continued on page 4



Mao Tsetung

# MAO MORE THAN EVER!

# AFTER THE NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS

Continued from page 3

to socialism in unity with proletarians and oppressed worldwide and as part of the world revolution.

Some people argue that it is "unrealistic" to go straight up against the imperialists, especially for a small country, and that the Sandinistas had no choice but to try to reach an understanding with the U.S. and ask for help from the Soviets. But can anyone who stands with the oppressed say after the elections that the results of the Sandinistas' "realistic" road are in the real interests of the people?

There are much difficulties and hardships in going up against powerful imperialist enemies. Especially as long as imperialism continues to be in a dominant position worldwide, the forces of revolution will face intense pressures from the forces of counterrevolution. But isn't this all the more reason to stick on the road of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and conquer more and more of the world?

There are no guarantees against setbacks and defeats. Even when the revolutionary road is followed, there can come turning points which are unfavorable for the revolutionaries—situations where, for the time, significant sections of the masses are politically neutralized by the counter-revolutionary camp or even swing away from the revolutionary camp. In socialist China, the Maoists waged repeated struggles to mobilize the advanced elements in society to take the revolutionary initiative and unite with revolutionary forces internationally. Still, after the death of Mao in 1976, the proletariat was overthrown in China. With all the weight of imperialism—East and West—behind them, the Chinese revisionists led by Deng came to power and restored capitalism.

But the Chinese revolution, especially the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, gave rise to a whole new generation of revolutionaries worldwide. The Maoists in China were defeated, but they left a clear revolutionary legacy for the proletariat and the oppressed not only in China but worldwide which can serve as the basis to win new and greater victories.

What a world of difference with the setback that happened in Nicaragua! Unfortunately in Nicaragua, the Sandinista road and its crisis have left people disoriented and without a revolutionary legacy. But people with revolutionary aspirations need to sum up some things from this, in order to move the struggle forward.

Crucial lessons can be drawn from Maoist revolutions about what is truly realistic and possible:

- The people's war led by Mao in China showed the way for a small revolutionary army, up against a vicious and powerful enemy, to grow and win victories. This path has inspired revolutionaries in many countries, and today the most notable example is the advancing people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru.

- Mao showed that a revolutionary army and a liberated country can base itself on self-reliance—reliance on the revolutionary masses and the support of oppressed people and proletarians worldwide—even when surrounded by hostile forces.

- Mao said that people, not weapons, are decisive. He showed that the masses armed with Marxism-Leninism-Maoism are the most powerful weapon for revolution. This is being proven again right now in Peru, where peasants armed with slingshots, bows and arrows, and weapons taken from the enemy are fighting a reactionary army supplied by the big powers.

Today, Maoist parties and organizations gathered in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement are waging people's war or preparing to do so as soon as conditions permit. Other roads may look "easier," but only the path of Maoist revolution will lead to real liberation.

The U.S. rulers are stepping up their intervention all over Latin America. They are already intensifying intervention against the Peruvian people's war in a big way. Mao said that tactically the imperialists are real tigers, and they must be taken seriously. But he also said that strategically the imperialists and all reactionaries are paper tigers with major weaknesses. The U.S. may seem to be "riding high" in Latin America. But the debt crisis in Mexico and other countries is threatening to explode. U.S.-backed regimes all over the region have to keep the people down with death squads and vicious repression, sometimes dressed up with the thin lie of U.S.-style elections. In Peru the people's war is winning victories throughout the country. And the stepped-up U.S. intervention could heat up anti-U.S. struggles all over Latin America and right here in the imperialist homeland.

It's time for people who are serious about going up against the U.S. power to break with roads of illusions. Mao's words are still right on time: "Cast away illusions, prepare for struggle."

It's time to take up the road of Maoist revolution. It's not an easy road, but it's the only way to break ALL the chains. That is the cold, hard—and truly liberating—truth.

**MAO  
MORE  
THAN  
EVER!**

# CAST AWAY ILLUSIONS

## Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

The Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement was adopted in March 1984 by the delegates and observers at the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations which formed the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

The Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is available in the U.S. from Revolution Books stores and outlets, in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Creole, Danish, English, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Kurdish, Malayalam, Punjabi, Spanish, Tamil, and Turkish.

Or order from  
RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.

\$2.00. Include 50 cents for postage.

For more information and other language editions write the Information Bureau of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement at the following address:  
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19

# Big Brother and Big Business

“Corporate America has learned so much about consumers that some industry observers joke about where this might end. ‘My god,’ said one, ‘When the time comes and they start rounding up the innocents you wonder if next time it’ll be by Procter & Gamble instead of the state.’”

San Francisco Examiner

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Beginning March 23 the U.S. government will be sending every household a 1990 census form. BIG BROTHER will be asking millions of people to provide all kinds of information to be entered into their high-tech computers. A big publicity campaign is already underway, telling people that if they don’t fill out the forms, they won’t be “represented” in elections or get “their fair share” of government money and services. They are telling people to “stand up and be counted.” But what they really mean is they want to count people so they can be better spied on, suppressed and exploited.

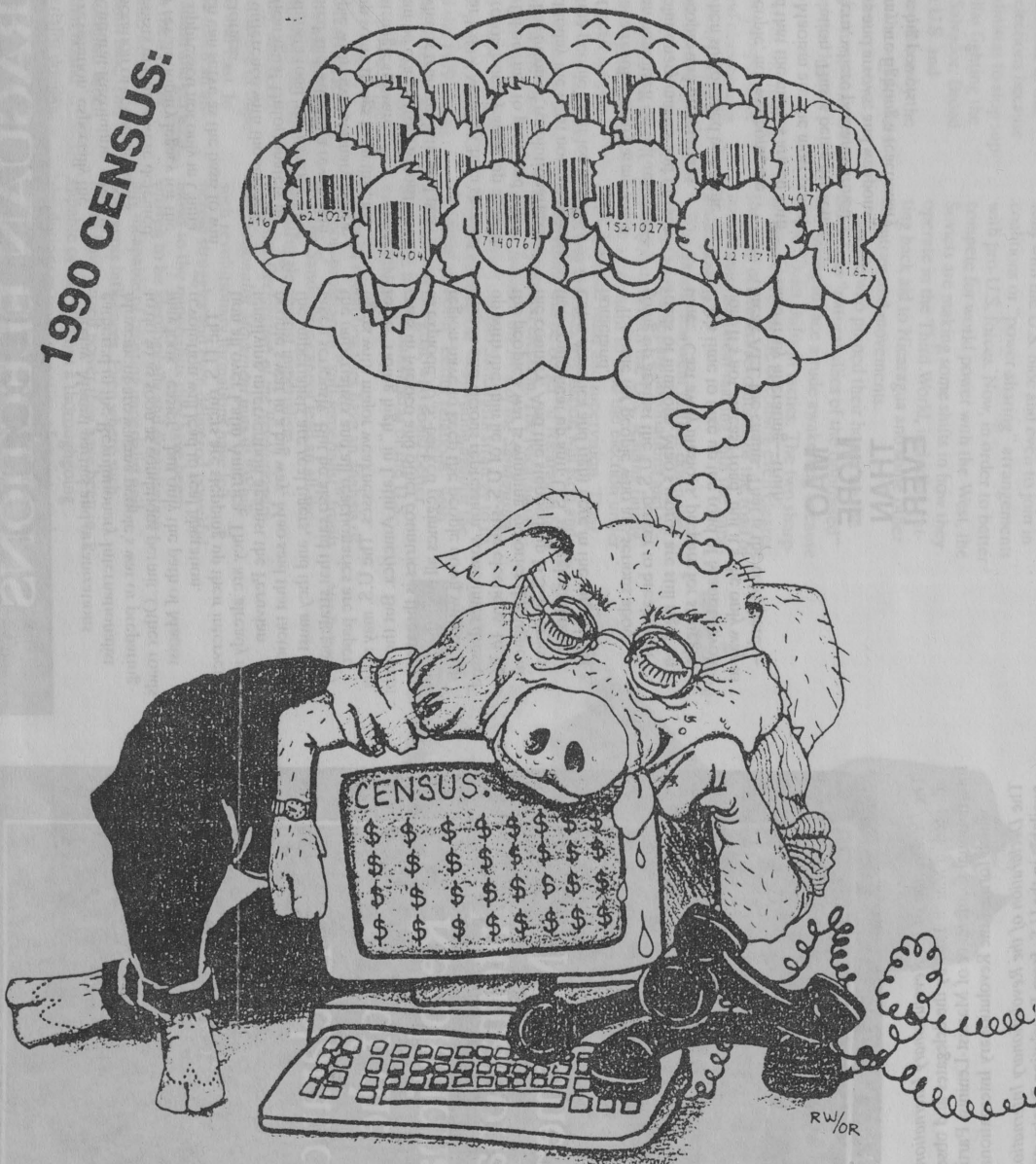
The 1990 census is a major step in the government’s efforts to strengthen its repressive apparatus. Census information—like nationality, economic status, relationship of household members, and location, down to the neighborhood and block—can play an essential role in all kinds of repressive measures. High-tech computers will be able to put together certain “profiles” and help target immigrants for roundups. City housing authorities will be able to get information to help find “illegal” residents who aren’t on the lease. And census “profiles” could also be used to target areas for War on Drugs raids. (See last week’s RW No. 547 for more on this.)

The other aspect of the 1990 census that must be exposed is how BIG BUSINESS will use the census to make more money off of people. Avaricious businessmen are already drooling over the prospects of using new census data to figure out better ways of “targeting certain consumer groups.” And in many cases this will mean nothing more than finding better ways to discriminate against certain sections of the people. For instance, insurance and real estate companies use information about different neighborhoods, like nationality and income, to “redline” certain areas. In other words, these companies withhold home loans or insurance from people in neighborhoods labeled “poor economic risks.” It has been estimated that already for the average Black family there is a “hidden tax” amounting to \$1,000 a year or more in the form of higher food prices, insurance rates, etc. And now a more accurate census will provide businesses with information to be able to discriminate against people even better.

Big business already uses a combination of census data and ZIP codes to better rip off people. Now they are hoping new census data will result in even higher profits.

Advertisers and marketing executives use ZIP codes to get information on where people live, who they are, their income, number of children, what type of appliances they use, what magazines they read, what kind of car they drive, etc. Every household is placed in one of some

1990 CENSUS:



38,000 ZIP code areas and, combining this information with census data, businesses can pinpoint certain "consumer tastes" and "lifestyles." People know exactly what this means on one level—tremendous amounts of "junk mail" and harassing telephone calls (some that don't even give you a real human voice, they want you to talk to a computer!). In 1983 direct-marketing firms in America earned an estimated \$135 billion using direct-mail catalogs, advertisements sent out in the mail, etc. One huge mail-marketing company, Advo Systems in Connecticut, mails 56 million households packets of coupons each week. And their mailing list, which contains 94 million home addresses, is so complete the U.S. Census Bureau is using it for the 1990 census mailing.

Again, such mail-marketing frequently discriminates against poor and minority people. According to an article in the *San Francisco Examiner*, "Donnelley Marketing Information Services has used census information to come up with a 'profile' for every ZIP code in the United States. A ZIP code might be labeled 'pools and patios,' 'furs and Cadillacs,' or 'shotguns and pickups.'" The article didn't mention, however, how racist marketing practices can also use labels like, "Black and poor," "Non-white: potential credit risk," or "Only market poor-quality merchandise in this area."

According to the *Examiner*, companies now want information that narrows their targets even more and are looking eagerly to the 1990 census that will provide data for an area as small as 200 homes.

### THE TIGER'S DATABASE

This is the first time the census will be done on computer. The main Big Brother computer the Census Bureau will be using is known as TIGER, for Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system. It is basically a \$275 million map that will provide a seamless digital representation of the entire country. The 1990 census data will be added to the map which can break things down to a block by block area, and the resulting TIGER database will be available to the public.

The Census Bureau plans on making TIGER's data widely available on a laser-disk format. These CD-ROM disks can, with the purchase of a CD-ROM reader, be used by personal computer operators. According to one demographics expert, "More people than ever will have access to it." Census tapes will cost about \$175 apiece and will contain 500,000 to two million bits of informa-

tion on geography, family size, income, and racial background and various combinations of this data. Between 1980 and 1989 the Census Bureau filled more than 8,100 orders for single copies or batches of these tapes. And Big Business's appetite for these tapes will most certainly be even bigger for the 1990 data.

In fact a whole "information industry" has grown up around census data that includes hundreds of companies—information firms, computer mapping organizations, software developers, etc. And what this "information" business is all about is getting data from the Census Bureau and then going through it, taking out relevant information, putting it together with other information, and then providing it to big businesses for use in "marketing strategies" for bigger profits. In a phrase, the "information industry" is nothing but the bad wolf saying to consumers, "the better to eat you."

As one demographics expert put it, the census data is, literally, a "gold mine"

for companies. And there is a whole superstructure of companies that have developed around census and other demographic information. "Information firms" specialize in everything from "consumer behavior information" to computerized mapping. This whole superstructure developed because of the availability of census data and now has literally thousands of other sources of information that can be combined with new 1990 census data. Some of these sources include records of home purchases, car purchases, magazine subscriptions, hospital stays, and other such transactions people make everyday.

The *New York Times* reports that the Census Bureau has no plans to ask private companies that use census data to share their profits with the government. But Barbara Bryant, the Bureau's director, says she is exploring the idea of asking companies to share some of their technology and information. And she is suggesting a concrete way that Big Business and Big Brother can work together

“Corporate America has learned so much about consumers that some industry observers joke about where this might end. ‘My god,’ said one, ‘When the time comes and they start rounding up the innocents you wonder if next time it’ll be by Procter & Gamble instead of the state.’”

*San Francisco Examiner*

to oppress the people. Bryant says the Census Bureau may request that companies help the government to develop computerized maps based on the new census data. And as mentioned before, these maps can be used to carry out all kinds of repressive measures.

### CAPITALI\$\$\$\$ AMERIKKKA

This is Capitali\$\$\$\$ AmeriKKKa. Big Brother and Big Business consider the masses nothing but a bunch of faceless people, ready to have bar codes stamped on their heads. They are gearing up for ways to clamp down on the people even harder. And they are licking their chops with visions of better ways to make more money off of us. Census data will be bought and sold for big bucks, used to make bigger bucks, and used to discriminate against certain sections of the people. The 1990 census is bad news all around for the people. □

### THE AVARICIOUS BUSINESSMAN

The 1990 census will combine Big Brother and Big Business in a very dangerous and exploitative way.

“The census has become an integral part of the American economy. The 1990 data is going to be used as never before.”

Edward J. Spar,  
president of Market Statistics,  
a big demographic services firm

“Everybody uses census data. The K-Mart down the street from you, they're saying, ‘I want to know everything about everyone who lives within fifteen minutes of my store.’”

Vice President and  
chief economist of a huge  
information corporation

“The census is like a well that people dip water from. We don't know what they do with the water—whether they sprinkle it on the grass or drink it.”

Census Bureau Director  
Barbara Bryant

“The potential for creating additional information for additional users is immense. There are enormous quantities of potential information in the numbers. There is tremendous opportunity for producing more information without diminishing anyone else's information.”

Census Bureau Associate Director  
William P. Butz

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LITERATURE FROM:

CSRP, PO Box  
1246, Berkeley, CA 94701  
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Belgrave. 3160. Victoria.

# MULTI FUNCTION POLIS

Letter to the Editor,

There are a number of matters to raise regarding the article on the Very Fast Train and the Multi-Function Polis.

The idea came from the Trade Minister in Japan in the late 1980's. Eighty Australian companies and eighty-two Japanese companies paid \$10,000 each to get the project underway.

The Japanese companies include Nippon Steel, Kobe Steel, Canon, Sony, Toshiba, Tokjo Engineering, Mitsubishi, Tojo Bank and Kumagai-Gumi. The Australian companies include AWA, Aussat, BHP, Bond, CRA, ESSO, Telecom, Nissan, Mitsubishi Australia, the ANZ and Westpac Banks, AMP, Dalgety, Ansett and Qantas. Individuals include, Sir Peter Abeles, Rupert Murdoch, John Elliot and Arvi Parbo. They are backed by the State and Federal governments, selected academics, universities and some trade unions.

The super-cities would have high tech industries such as biotechnology, rare metals and earths, computer software, communications, leisure activities and tourism, and the VFT/MFP will eventually extend accross Australia, south to north, north to centre to south, and to the west, embracing the giant building, landholders, whole government communications and aerospace station from the southern docklands to Cape York peninsula.

The backers of the project, Japanese and Australian, represent the most powerful monopolies in their respective countries. Australia and Japan are two industrial countries situated at the northern and southern edges of the Pacific Rim, an area of growing economic and strategic importance in the world; and an area where revolt against the imperialist system is gathering strength. Their joint might will set out to control and exploit the island nations of the Pacific, strengthen their overall monopoly position to further exploit the Australian and Japanese proletarians, to firm up their committment to the western war alliance for the Pacific Era, and to attempt to keep out other imperialists with the same motives. The project will have serious implications for the environment, the flora and fauna, with land acquisitions for the proposed fast train and high-tec cities: in a land already in poor shape after 200 years of massive exploitation. Environmentalists already are alarmed at the further pollution of the air, rivers and the sea, again already in poor shape due to the poisons dumped by the same class backing the VFT/MFP. Others raise the matter of the tens of thousands of immigrants, visitors or guest workers and the already bent immigration rules as demonstrated by the entry of scabs during the Pilots Strike.

The project, kept under raps for many months, is now out in the open and many Australian committees and individuals have attended public meetings to acquaint themselves of the facts.

There is no doubt that an anti-Japanese trend is developing in the opposition to the project and there is a tendency to bring to the fore the unequal position of Australia in any joint



# Story of the Imperialist

venture with Japan.

Firstly, it is important to look at the class position of the Australian backers. They already control the freight, transport, building construction, real estate, media, information, education, and finance within Australia and export capital to the island nations of the Pacific and elsewhere. If we take Sir Peter Abeles, he already controls with others, TNT, transport, airlines in Australia and has a slice of the American market. There has been more than a suggestion that he had connections with the American . Abeles is ruthless, he's a personal friend of Prime Minister Hawke and together they locked out the Pilots, employed scab labour, and the " friend" supplied the boss with \$100 million plus compensation. The Australian imperial ruling class is just as ruthless as the Japanese imperial ruling class.

The Australian and Japanese working class face the same problems. They are both exploited, face de-regulation of industry, declining living conditions and wages, a declining trade union movement: company unions are the main in Japan while in Australia, the re-structure of the trade union scheme of the ACTU and ALP head in this direction. The Japanese Ainu people and the Australian Aborigine suffer similar oppression and discrimination. Unemployment, homelessness, destitution is widespread in both countries and women do sweat work in the home and suffer similar overwork for little pay whether they work in Sydney or Tokyo. In fact, the working conditions of the Japanese proletarians are perhaps worse than the Australian, but the VFT/MFP re-structure will, no doubt, bring the conditions of both sets of workers into line. The exploitation of the island people will be a lot worse than either the Aust. or the Japanese workers. If in doubt about Japanese workers, read, "Japan in the Passing Lane", by Satoshi Kamata. It is part of the media to fill Australian workers with all sorts of illusions about the wonderful conditions of the Japanese workers, how hard they work and how well they are paid. This attempts to speed up Australians.

The anti- Japanese theme in the opposition to the MFP fails to distinguish the class differences between the Japanese ruling class and the Japanese proletarians. The term "we" when referring to Australia also fails to recognize the class differences between the Australian ruling class and the proletarians. To obliterate these irreconcilable contradictions is treachery. It attempts to enlist the aid of workers to support their own ruling class against another country. To put it another way,..."the proletariat of these countries is thus encouraged to strive to outbid the imperialist bourgeoisie as the best defenders of its own interests..."(Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement).

The relative imperial strength of Australia is weaker than that of the Japanese ruling class and this is inevitable whatever the alliance between imperial robbers. It cannot be overlooked that emphasis on this inequality is no excuse for obliterating the class nature of the VFT/MFP.

The Australian ruling class is falling over themselves to link up with the Japanese imperialists for greater profit and exploitation of the proletariat. So what stand should the communists make? The project should be exposed as an imperialist scheme to strengthen their hold over the proletarians of Australia, Japan and the Pacific countries, to commit aggression against any peoples who want to overthrow the imperialist system, and use their high-tec to spy on those who oppose them, especially those who want to fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat and overthrow the imperialist system.

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# —Story of the Internationale—

Eugène Pottier, the 25th Anniversary of His Death

By V.I. Lenin

*Eugène Pottier was the revolutionary poet who wrote the lyrics of the Internationale in the aftermath of the defeat of the Paris Commune in 1871, the first attempt of the working class to seize power. Now this song is the anthem of the international proletariat. Twenty-five years after Pottier's death, the Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin wrote the following article about this anthem and its author.*

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In November of last year — 1912 — it was twenty-five years since the death of the French worker-poet, Eugène Pottier, author of the famous proletarian song, the *Internationale* ("Arise ye starvelings from your slumbers," etc.).

This song has been translated into all European and other languages. In whatever country a class-conscious worker finds himself, wherever fate may cast him, however much he may feel himself a stranger, without language, without friends, far from his native country — he can find himself comrades and friends by the familiar refrain of the *Internationale*.

The workers of all countries have adopted the song of their foremost fighter, the proletarian poet, and have made it the worldwide song of the proletariat.

And so the workers of all countries now honor the memory of Eugène Pottier. His wife and daughter are still alive and living in poverty, as the author of the *Internationale* lived all his life. He was born in Paris on October 4, 1816. He was 14 when he composed his first song, and it was called: *Long Live Liberty!* In 1848 he was a fighter on the barricades in the workers' great battle against the bourgeoisie.

Pottier was born into a poor family, and all his life remained a poor man, a proletarian, earning his bread as a packer and later by tracing patterns on fabrics.

From 1840 onwards, he responded to all great events in the life of France with militant songs, awakening the consciousness of the backward, calling on the workers to unite, castigating the bourgeoisie and the bourgeois governments of France.

In the days of the great Paris Commune (1871), Pottier was elected a member. Of the 3,600 votes cast, he received 3,352. He took part in all the activities of the Commune, that first proletarian government.

The fall of the Commune forced Pottier to flee to England, and then to America. His famous song, the *Internationale*, was written in June 1871 — you might say, the day after the bloody defeat in May.

The Commune was crushed — but Pottier's *Internationale* spread its ideas throughout the world, and it is now more alive than ever before.

In 1876, in exile, Pottier wrote a poem, *The Workingmen of America to the Workingmen of France*. In it he described the life of workers under the yoke of capitalism, their poverty, their back-breaking toil, their exploitation, and their firm confidence in the coming victory of their cause.

It was only nine years after the Commune that Pottier returned to France, where he at once joined the Workers Party. The first volume of his verse was published in 1884, the second volume, entitled *Revolutionary Songs*, came out in 1887.

A number of other songs by the worker-poet were published after his death.

On November 8, 1887, the workers of Paris carried the remains of Eugène Pottier to the Père Lachaise cemetery, where the executed Communards are buried. The police savagely attacked the crowd in an effort to snatch the red banner. A vast crowd took part in the civic funeral. On all sides there were shouts of "Long live Pottier!"

Pottier died in poverty. But he left a memorial which is truly more enduring than the handiwork of man. He was one of the greatest *propagandists by song*. When he was composing his first song, the number of worker socialists ran to tens, at most. Eugène Pottier's historic song is now known to tens of millions of proletarians.

## Some History

*The following background history of the Internationale appeared in the then-revolutionary Chinese weekly Peking Review in 1972—Ed.*

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On March 18, 1871, the proletariat and the people of Paris in France staged a courageous armed uprising and founded the Paris Commune. This was the first proletarian regime in the history of mankind, the first great attempt of the proletariat to overthrow the bourgeoisie and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. The Paris Commune failed because of the military onslaught and bloody suppression by butcher Thiers in collaboration with Bismarck. But just as Marx pointed out: The glorious movement of March 18 was "the dawn of the great social revolution which will liberate mankind from the regime of classes for ever."

The Paris Commune members put up an extremely heroic resistance against the class enemy at home and abroad. In that week of bloodshed, corpses were littered

on the streets and bloodstains found everywhere in Paris. Searches and slaughter continued up to early June. A Versailles newspaper published on May 30 announced that the poet Eugène Pottier had been arrested and put to death. Actually the poet had gone underground. Amid the roar of guns and fire, under the threat of death and while the corpses of the victims were being transported by carts outside the window, our great proletarian poet stayed on the outskirts of Paris in early June. Neither wavering nor becoming down-hearted, he summed up experience from the failure and translated his boiling feelings into language to write the extraordinary inspiring poem — the *Internationale*. The poem was filled with the firm determination that slaves created history and confidence in the certain victory of the communist cause. It predicted: "Let each stand in his place; the Internationale shall be the human race." By writing his poem Pottier erected an immortal monument for the Paris Commune members, while through the *Internationale* the heroes of the Commune issued the call to the late-

comers of carrying the revolution through to the end.

It was in June 1888 or seven months after Pottier's death that Pierre Degeyter first read the words of the *Internationale*. This French worker-composer was exhilarated by its spirit. Reviewing the historical experience of the workers' movement, he thought of many things — his and the masses' loyalty to Marxism and longing for communism, the life of Pottier, the battle scenes of the Paris Commune... He seemed to have returned to that great year, 1871, so he began on his simple organ to set the music for the *Internationale* at night. Degeyter worked the whole night and when he finished his task the sun had risen from the east.

In July 1888, the composer led a chorus to give the first performance of the song at a gathering of newspaper sellers in Lille. From that time on, the *Internationale* has spread all over France and the world and become the battle clarion of the proletariat and workers of all countries.

# The Internationale

French Words by EUGENE POTTIER.

Translated by CHARLES H. KERR

1. A-rise, ye pris'ners of star-va-tion! A-rise, ye wretched of the earth,  
2. We want no condescending sav-iors, To rule us from a judgment hall.

For jus-tice thunders con-dem-na-tion, A bet-ter world's in birth.  
We work-ers ask not for their fa-vors; Let us con-sult for all.

No more tra-di-tion's chains shall bind us, A-rise, ye slaves! no more in thrall!  
To make the thief disgorge his booty, To free the spir-it from its cell.

The earth shall rise on new founda-tions, We have been naught, we shall be all  
We must our-selves decide our du-ty, We must de-cide and do it well

## REFRAIN.

'Tis the fi-nal con-flict, Let each stand in his place.

The in-ter-na-tion-ale Shall be the hu-man race.

'Tis the fi-nal con-flict, Let each stand in his place.

The in-ter-na-tional Par-ty Shall be the hu-man race.

**CELEBRATE MAY 1st: INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY**



**SOVIET-STYLE FALSE COMMUNISM IS DEAD!  
LONG LIVE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM!**

**MAKE REVOLUTION! BUILD AND STRENGTHEN MAOIST PARTIES  
UNITED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST MOVEMENT!**

**SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU!**

**BREAK THE CHAINS!**

**UNLEASH THE FURY OF WOMEN AS A MIGHTY FORCE FOR REVOLUTION!**

**FORWARD ALONG THE PATH CHARTED BY MAO TSETUNG!**

**PREVENT WORLD WAR!**

**STEP UP THE STRUGGLE FOR REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!**

