

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 251 • January 14, 1990 • 15 cents • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

U.S. out of Middle East! Kremlin out of Lithuania!

Bush is preparing to make full-scale war on Iraq. Gorbachev is making war on Lithuania.

Gorbachev just sent troops to Vilnius, the capitol of Lithuania. These troops attacked Lithuanian demonstrators fighting for the right to self-determination — that is, for the right to separate from the USSR — and killed at least 13.

Bush claims to oppose Gorbachev. Bush's opposition is totally dishonest and hypocritical. Bush is doing the same thing in Iraq.

The people of Iraq are fighting for the right to self-determination, for the right to their land, for the right to determine their own future. Kuwaiti land and Iraqi land are actually part of the same land. Kuwaiti land was stolen from the Iraqis by British and U.S. oil monopolies.

We urge workers in the U.S. and the USSR to fight for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from the Middle East and all Kremlin forces from Lithuania.

As long as richer, more powerful nations like the U.S., or the Russian republic within the USSR, are allowed to oppress smaller or poorer nations like Iraq or Lithuania, there will never be peace. And the workers and their sons and daughters of the U.S. and the USSR will be used as cannon-fodder against their oppressed brothers and sisters.

On the other hand, when the workers of the U.S. and the USSR, support the struggles of oppressed peoples against Bush and Gorbachev, for the right to self-determination, together, they will be invincible.

Workers in the U.S. will build a workers party, a workers government, take over the giant monopolies and develop a planned economy. Workers in the USSR will overthrow the privileged bureaucracy, build a workers party, a workers government, and takeover the planned economy that already exists. Together they will bring peace and prosperity. They will begin to build truly socialist and communist societies, in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no want, no suffering, and no privileged bureaucracy of any kind.

This is what Leninists, Trotskyists, and their Fourth International are fighting for. Support them! ■



Iraqi woman prepares to defend her country. Lithuanians gather to defend their country. Workers should support these oppressed peoples against Bush and Gorbachev.

March in Washington January 26

Call 548-3920 for bus tickets.

Mass demonstrations can force Bush to bring all U.S. troops home now, just as mass demonstrations brought down the Berlin Wall and forced various Stalinist dictators to resign, be tried, and even executed (the Romanian Stalinist dictator, Ceausescu)!



SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!

U.S. Troops- Out Now! Nothing to negotiate!

On January 19 and 26, thousands will march in Washington and San Francisco against U.S. intervention in the Middle East, for:

No war in the Middle East!
Bring the troops home now!
Money for human needs, not war!

These marches will represent an important step in the mass mobilization of working and oppressed peoples that will force the U.S. government to bring U.S. troops home.

Workers and students need to continue and deepen the struggle to bring the troops home now, for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces, and for mass demonstrations to force Bush to do this, especially in the unions.

They need to continue and deepen this struggle, not only against Bush and Co., but also against tendencies calling for replacing U.S. troops with U.N. troops (U.S. troops in U.N. uniforms; the tactic that the U.S. used to disguise its troops in Korea) or for negotiations.

Bringing U.S. troops home now is the only way to avoid, or cut short, a war with the working and oppressed people of Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries.

As long as U.S. troops remain in Saudi Arabia, or anywhere else in the Middle East, war is inevitable, for the simple reason that the vast majority of workers and oppressed peoples in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and elsewhere, do not want them to be there. The only forces that want U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia are the rich, the billionaire sheiks. The vast majority of people see the U.S. troops as foreign invaders, as oppressors, and they will fight to the death to drive them out, just as any U.S. worker would fight to the death to protect his family and his home from anyone who invaded his home with arms in hand.

Calling for negotiations, or anything else, except immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces, suggests that there is some other way to avoid a war with workers and oppressed peoples of Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries ... other than immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from *their* land.

Calling for negotiations undermines the struggle for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces. It takes the pressure off Bush. It *prolongs* the amount of time that U.S. troops remain on foreign soil and that the working class will pay for this (with dead working class youth; with job cuts, speed-up, social service cuts, price increases, tax increases; with tension and hostility between workers of different races and nationalities).

This is why it is so important for workers and students to continue and deepen the fight to bring the troops home now, for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces, for mass demonstrations to make this happen.

Mass demonstrations *can* force Bush to bring the troops home now, just as they brought down the Berlin Wall and forced various Stalinist dictators to resign, be tried, and even executed (like the Romanian

Stalinist dictator, Ceaucescu).

What is more, mass demonstrations can also help create conditions in which workers will build their own party, their own government, take over the giant monopolies, and

use them to develop a planned economy that will free workers and oppressed from all forms of exploitation and oppression and bring peace and prosperity. ■

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

January 15 is the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the only nationally recognized holiday for a Black American. The situation of Black people in America is described in the Urban League's "State of Black America" report. "African Americans have been in a permanent recession" during the 1980's. Black unemployment rates throughout the 1980's were 10% or greater. Blacks obtained only 3/5 the income of whites in 1989 and have yet to obtain the peak average obtained in 1978! The conclusion of the Urban League: "The disadvantaged economic status of the African-American population is a permanent feature of the American economy."

This is the richest country in the world. Yet, 25 million members of its population, a people that has been here for 400 years, are permanently placed at the bottom of the economy. Why?

The capitalist system in America is incapable of raising their standard of living. It depends on the super-exploitation of Black people for its profits. This system was once capable of assimilating all kinds of workers,

of developing the standard of living for everyone. Indeed, this system was once capable of changing, even with a civil war, and ending formal slavery. But now it is incapable of even a major reform in the life of Black people. The recently defeated civil rights legislation, which cannot be described as a major reform, but a very weak law, demonstrates the inability of capitalism to grant even the smallest concessions to Black people.

The conclusion is clear, if one does not want to be deluded with idle nonsense. The capitalist system must be replaced. A political fight must be made for workers of all races to unite against the capitalists in defence of the rights of Black people and of their standard of living. This means support for all the struggles of Black people to end the discrimination and inequality forced on them by the capitalists. It means a struggle today for a workers party to lead a workers revolution in which the workers establish their own government, take over the monopolies, and develop a planned economy that fully satisfies the needs of Black people and all oppressed peoples. — F. Michaels ■

Briefly . . .

More banks are failing. Bush seems to be trying to grab Kuwait in the hopes that he will be able to use profits from oil to bailout the U.S. financial system. At the same time, the U.S. government has taken over several banks, is pouring public funds into them, and monitoring their activity. The failure of these private banks shows that private enterprise is dying. The government itself is forced to recognize this. But its measures are partial and half-hearted. Workers should fight for the government to takeover all the banks and form a single state bank. But this will serve the workers only if the workers form their own party and the government is a workers government.

Bourgeois publications recently announced that there may be a wave of "Iraqi terrorism" or "Arab terrorism" in the U.S. and the FBI has initiated an investigation into Arabs in the Detroit area. The only terrorists are George Bush and Co. and the other warmakers in Washington. If you wage war on a people, what do you expect them to do? Lay down and die? Play by your rules? The "investigations" of Arabs in Detroit are just the first step toward "investigations" of all opponents of U.S. intervention. We urge all working people to defend Arabs against these investigations. **FBI hands off Arabs!**

January 16 is the birthday of Eleanor Marx,

daughter of Karl Marx, who analyzed capitalism and its inevitable transformation into socialism, who played a leading role in the revolutionary struggles of his time, and who formed the first workers International. Eleanor wrote and translated many works in the interests of the working class, organized many meetings and demonstrations in England, toured the United States and spoke for forming a workers party and for socialism. She was especially interested in the struggle against the oppression of women.

Spark, a Trotskyist group, is having a forum on the situation in the USSR, called: "The End of Communism or its Beginning?" Sunday, January 20, 5 p.m., Friends School, 1100 St. Aubin, Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 47 copies of *Truth* No. 250 and 5 copies of *The Fourth International* No. 157 at the Ford Rouge plant, Wayne County Community college and various demonstrations against U.S. intervention in the Middle East. We have been concentrating our efforts on building support for the January 26 march in Washington. We find most workers support the demands, but they are skeptical about whether or not mass demonstrations can force Bush out. The skepticism is the result of the constant stream of bourgeois propaganda trying to make workers think they are powerless. Trotskyists need to make a common fight against this bourgeois propaganda. A common fight will strengthen the workers' confidence in their class and their future. — M.G.

TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

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

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

Editors: Margaret Guttshall; Fred Michaels

Address: Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283

Phone: 313-584-6556

Subscribe to Truth!

Regular subscriptions: Ten issues for \$2.50; Twenty issues for \$5.00.

Supporting subscriptions; institutions: Ten issues for \$5.00; Twenty issues for \$10.00.

Name _____

Address _____

(Send with check or money order payable to M. Guttshall, to Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.)