

**PAUL ROBESON ON
J.V. STALIN! Page 8**



northstar COMPASS

Published by the Organizing Committee for an International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People

**MAY DAY GREETINGS
TO ALL READERS!**



**MAY DAY
GREETINGS BORIS!
from SOVIET
WORKING CLASS!**



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**YOU HAVE AN OPINION
ABOUT NSC? WRITE!**

EDITORIAL

YELTSIN SHUFFLES, FIRES, REPLACES, OUSTS HIS CRONIES!

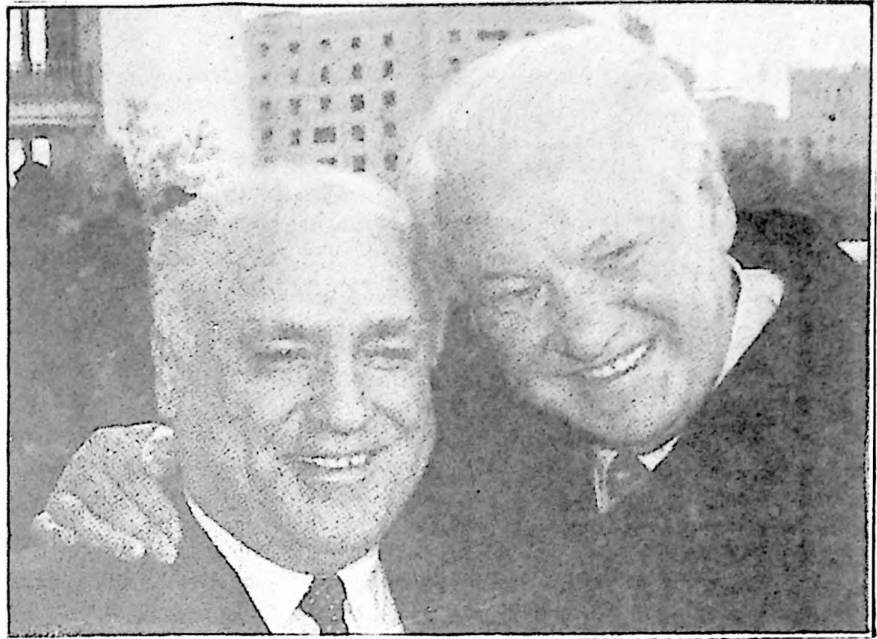
Newspapers, TV and all media all over the world screamed with headlines: "Unpredictable Yeltsin fires his entire government", "Yeltsin threatens to sack more officials", "Foes kept guessing", etc., etc.!

Reading through columns of type, you come across one sentence which states: "International Monetary Fund in talks with Yeltsin has demanded changes to comply with its lending policy."

No matter how much Yeltsin or the powers that run Yeltsin behind the scenes try to shuffle or reshuffle his cabinet or ministers, the chronic problem of privatization and absolute robbery of the people, they cannot and will not have any answers to make life better for Soviet people.

The future of capitalism is not there. Failure after failure is evident not only in Russia or in other former Soviet republics, but in Philippines, Japan, Korea and other countries – where the so-called "growth bubble" burst. How long will it take Soviet people to realize this? U.S., Canadian, British and other capitalist countries live off the avails of other countries – cheap labour, rape of their natural resources, gobbling up industries and ruining the economies in order to save the Imperialists own. BUT ... no cosmetic surgery will save this patient!

This is all a "face lift" for Yeltsin to some of the Soviet people who, unfortunately, still think that "market economy" is the best thing to happen since sliced bread! Capitalism, especially the raw,



NEW FACE: Russian President Boris Yeltsin hugs former Russian prime minister Victor Chernomyrdin, above, in a picture taken last year to mark Chernomyrdin's birthday. Yesterday, he fired the premier and replaced him with acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko, right, a man with little experience in government but a leaning toward economic reform. The appointment came as a surprise, said Kiriyenko.

mafia infested, robbery infatuated regime, has their days numbered.

If you also read down from these headlines in the newspapers, you can read what Yeltsin had stated: "Dismissed ministers do not have to clear out their desks"! What does that mean? According to presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky who said: "Yeltsin shall rehire all of them back plus other sacked officials"!

DOES ANY MORE NEED TO BE SAID?

Now is the time for the "communists" who are members of the Russian Duma from CPRF to put their money where their mouth is – as the old saying goes! If Zyuganov really believes that he can make changes through "parliamentary



means", here's the perfect opportunity to bring the situation to a head!

Will he do it? Unfortunately, we doubt it. The Duma seat; the pay; the perks; the illusion that someday in the year 2000 Zyuganov might become a president are more important to Zyuganov than the dedication to throw out this crooked regime and then go on to resurrect the Soviet Union and Socialism!

Yeltsin and his present cronies **DO NOT RULE RUSSIA – IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY**

FUND, WORLD BANK AND
WORLD IMPERIALISM HEADED
BY THE USA WHO NOW RULE
RUSSIA! □

CREDO OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS

Northstar Compass is the public voice of the Organizing Committee to establish an International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People and is dedicated to the resurrection of the Soviet Union as a Socialist State.

In the tradition since 1918 when in many countries of the world there were established "Hands Off Russia Committees", we are devoted to international cooperation in building socialism and solidarity in a world at peace. □

OPEN LETTER TO FORMER LEADERS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES!

It is now close to 10 years since contacts between the former Canada-USSR Association (now the Canadian Friends of Soviet People) have abruptly ceased!

The last event of joint undertaking between Canada-USA and USSR was the "5th Annual Canada-USA-USSR Festival of Friendship" that was held in Leningrad in 1987. The idea of these Festivals of Friendship was started in 1983 when the First Festival was held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, with great enthusiasm and attendance, besides plans being made for its continuation.

Since 1960, the Canada-USSR Association signed every year or every two years "Protocols of

Agreement", promising to exchange tourist groups, delegations, performing groups and other exchanges that went towards the understanding between Canadians and Soviet people.

I'm certain that the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies had the same arrangements with most countries of the world. This was evident when I attended the Conferences of "SSOD" that were held in Moscow at the House of Friendship on Kalinin Prospect!

When "perestroika" came along, when USSR was dissolved and USA-inspired counter-revolution took over the reigns, our co-operation ceased completely. This co-operation ceased on the part of former "Union of Soviet Friendship Societies", but it did not cease on our part. We tried to remain in contact, but our partner just dissolved itself like salt in water!

What happened to the leaders of these organizations such as Valentina Tereshkova, its President, Valerie Chibisenkov, of the USSR-Canada Society, Chilingarov its Chairman and scores of other "friends" that presented themselves as patriots, communists, dedicated Marxists-Leninists?



Why not even a courtesy of a New Year greeting card, not to speak of October Revolution or May Day greetings?

It seems that nearly ALL of the leaders of these Friendship Societies just turned over a "new leaf" and blended into the present capitalist society without even a semblance of a struggle!

Most of these former "friends" know that we publish Northstar Compass since we are quoted in the anti-Yeltsin press in former Soviet Union. OR IS IT that these former "friends" do not read the Communist-Patriotic press any more, but only the "official" press?

WHERE ARE YOU, MY FRIENDS? WAS ALL OF OUR FRIENDSHIP JUST A MASK? WERE YOU JUST PRETENDING THAT YOU WERE FOR THE USSR AND SOCIALISM?

Friendship is built on trust and love and understanding. It's a two-way street ... it cannot be one-sided, if it is really friendship!

I sometimes spend sleepless nights thinking of all the wonderful work we have done for peace and understanding. I cannot allow myself to believe that it was in vain!

If you, my friends, really are what you told us that you were, then I'm certain that somewhere deep in your hearts, you shall find the courage to stand up and be counted.

Your friends in Canada and in other countries did not give up the ideal! We did not abandon ship! We are here, we are striving to help you resurrect socialism and the Soviet Union. Will you help us and help yourself?

Being an eternal optimist, I hope to hear from some of you former "friends".

- Yours,

Michael Lucas

Editor of

Northstar Compass journal

President of

Canadian Friends of Soviet People □

HURRAH! MINCE MEAT IMPERIALISM — BON APPETIT!

RUSSIANS HONOUR BURGER CZAR COHON

MOSCOW (CP) — George Cohon, Canada's self-described champion of "burger diplomacy", has received the Order of Friendship award from President Boris Yeltsin for bringing McDonald's community work to Russia.

"I've been working in your country for over 20 years and this award means a lot to me," the senior chairman of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada told Yeltsin yesterday after receiving the medal at the Kremlin.

"It's not only business that I do here, it's love for the people and charitable work with young people."

The 60 year old Toronto resident started the first McDonald's in Moscow in 1990. Today, the chain employs 6,000, runs 33 restaurants, three office buildings, a food processing plant and activity centre for disabled children in Russia.

"It's not really a Canadian success story, it's a Russian success story," Cohon said after the ceremony. "We've put the emphasis on hiring and promoting Russians, using Russian suppliers, integrating into the community here."

The Order of Friendship, a silver, five-pointed star with gold overlay and a green silk band, is awarded by the Russian government for outstanding labour achievements and promotion of peace and friendship between nations.

One other Canadian, Arctic explorer Richard Weber of Chelsea, Quebec, has received it. Weber and his Russian partner became the first to ski to the North Pole and back without outside help in 1995.



WORKS LAUDED: McDonald's George Cohon, right, poses with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Cohon, whose company spent nearly 12 years negotiating with the former Soviet government to open the world's largest McDonald's, was the only foreigner among nearly 40 people decorated by Yeltsin yesterday.

"In the Soviet Union, there was very little appreciation of the way business is done in the West," Cohon said.

"When we started talking with them, it was the height of the Cold War — and we were the enemy. It was like we had horns on, or something."

To this day, it's hard to get many Russians to accept that a capitalist enterprise would donate some of its profits to charity, he said. "That's what we got the award for today, and I feel vindicated by that."

COMMENT:

*Well, we have seen everything!
Nothing can surprise us any more!*

Boris (Vodka) Yeltsin honors the George (Burger) Cohon with a "Friendship Medal"!

As the saying goes (but we are paraphrasing it), "Mince meat's flock together!"

The policy of McDonald's Restaurants towards its workers all

over the world is notorious for low pay, union busting attempts, turn over of staff due to below minimum wages. It is somehow ridiculous for Boris Yeltsin, who obviously does not need to eat at the greasy McDonald's Restaurants, because he has steaks, caviar and of course, plenty of booze. I doubt whether Mr. Cohon himself eats his own greasy kitchen hamburgers very often.

BUT, to give an "Order of Friendship" to a person who is making millions in profit off the hard-earned wages (if they do get paid sometimes) of Soviet people is absolutely ridiculous.

Oh yes, Mr. Cohon was wining and dining Soviet groups when they sometimes came to Canada, after we asked him to do so. Of course, that was public relations which obviously paid off!

Mr. Cohon made a statement that "In the Soviet Union there was very little appreciation of the way business is done in the West". Yes, there were people who surely understood what capitalism and monopoly stands for, but unfortunately the former Soviet leaders knew only of their own pocket books and how to sell off and undermine the socialist system!

We wonder, after Mr. Cohon received his "Medal of Friendship" whether he took Boris (Vodka) Yeltsin to celebrate into McDonald's for a greasy BIG MAC?

We certainly doubt it! □

NORTHSTAR COMPASS ON THE WEB

Northstar Compass is now on the World Wide Web. This means that anyone with access to the internet can now find out about Northstar Compass. We hope this will help to expand our subscriptions throughout the world.

The web site will be updated every month. It will contain the lead editorial, 2 or 3 news items of interest from the former Soviet Union, as well as pages listing the books and videos that NSC has available. It will also contain items of special interest. The site currently includes the full report from the 5th anniversary conference that founded the Organizing Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, as well as the resolutions passed at the conference.

The current main weakness is graphics. There are just a few of them and their quality needs improvement.

Our web address is WWW•NORTHSTARCOMPASS•ORG. We would very much appreciate it if those readers who have contacts with progressive periodicals could encourage them to mention the web site in their publications, and those who have their own web sites could provide links to our web site. □

NOTICE TO ALL READERS!

In this issue, you shall probably notice some changes in content and coverage. This is being done in order to fulfill as quickly as possible some of the decisions that were made by the delegates at the Conference '98 which was held in February of this year.

Since we are now the organ of the Organizing Committee for an International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, the journal has undertaken a task to try and cover as many stories related to Socialism and the resurrection of the Soviet Union that are happening not only in former Soviet Union but in countries where Northstar Compass is read.

Therefore, we have articles from New Zealand, Afghanistan, Turkey, India, USA, Canada, Soviet Union and others. Each consecutive issue shall try to cover different aspects of the struggles of friends of Soviet people and socialism who are not only striving for relations with Soviet patriots, but are also fighting their own ruling classes who are dominated by world imperialism, headed by United States of America!

You probably also have noticed on our NSC masthead that we are now on Internet and have our own Web Page. Browse the Internet ... tell your friends and associates also to do so ... the domain can be reached by: WWW•NORTHSTARCOMPASS•ORG.

In this April issue, you shall find a letter plus a Subscription Form from our Circulation Manager,

asking each one to give a gift subscription of NSC to your friend(s). In this way, we shall reach a much wider audience in 62 countries of the world. Let us enlarge our readership by at least 200 new subscribers!

We are asking readers in the countries where NSC is read to send us articles, photographs and other interesting materials which are held in your country towards the goal of informing the people about what is going on, their attitude, understanding and proposals. Please make the articles you write short - maximum 500-600 words so that we can get more news items inside the pages of Northstar Compass.

In the June-July issue, you shall read reports about the important Conference that is being held in Brussels, Belgium where scores of countries shall gather to discuss what can be done to help the Soviet people regain their Motherland back, restore Socialism and thus help the working class of the world in their struggles.

LET US FULFILL THE DECISIONS SET BY CONFERENCE '98 AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT IN 1999, A CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN EUROPE WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE IS FORMED!

- Editorial Board

Northstar Compass □

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PROTESTERS DEMAND RETURN OF SOVIETS!

"Protests took place all over Russia in their thousands and the mood was of anger and demands such as 'back wages', 'end to Boris Yeltsin's presidency', and 'return back to Soviet Union'.

In rallies from Moscow to Vladivostok, the Soviet people expressed their dissatisfaction with life in their post-communist country."

"In Moscow, separate protests by trade unions, communists and ultranationalists converged on the White House. 'Soviet power is what the whole world needs' were the cries of the protesters. Foreign correspondents while interviewing the marches heard these words repeated over and over again: 'Yeltsin is a monster. Who supports him? America, Israel, Germany?'

Victor Anpilov stated that: 'What we need is Soviet power!' Gennady Zyuganov drew cheers from the crowd when he called for Yeltsin's resignation. Zyuganov also stated that: 'We will not vote for Kiriyenko, the proposed new Prime Minister!'

It is estimated that the workers of Russia alone are owed back wages to the tune of 4 billion.

New on the scene were the young demonstrators of the 'Russia's National Bolshevik Party'."

The above quotes are from Associated Press, written by Maura Reynolds.

OUR COMMENT:

We're certain that all of our readers welcome this growing protest that is gathering steam and sooner than later, these protests shall culminate in the overthrow of the present regime. It is also a good sign to see that the majority of these protests are very heavily



composed of young people as the photo shows in this article.

It seems that as more time passes by since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, more and more left wing, patriotic, communist, nationalists and peoples movements come on the scene into this boiling pot that is now former Soviet Union.

Having received news from Moscow about these various movements and trying to analyze and put into perspective their composition and potential, we must admit that in one way, we are a bit perturbed, until we get more indepth analysis of the NEW young movement that seemed to spring up all of a sudden, that being the "Russian National Bolshevik Party".

True Communists and Patriots should disengage themselves from any nationalist fringe or patriotic (quasi fascist) movements, even if they DO carry the red flag.

WHO ARE THESE NATIONAL BOLSHEVIKS?

Bolsheviks in their glorious history always stood for Internationalism and struggled against nationalism. You CANNOT be a BOLSHEVIK and at the same time, be a NATIONALIST!

Another point that we're certain that our readers shall ask themselves: "Is this not the perfect opportunity for Communists of the Communist Party of Russian Federation which is the majority block in the Russian Duma (parliament) to do all in their power to not ratify the proposed candidate for Prime Minister, Kiriyenko?"

Yeltsin, with his dictatorial power that unfortunately was given to him by the CPRF Duma members when they voted for the ratification of the Constitution, is threatening that he will dissolve the Duma if Duma rejects his proposed candidate 3 times for the Prime Minister.

If Zyuganov is really committed to resurrecting the Soviet Union, if he is committed to socialism and to get rid of the present regime that is being propped up by the West and the Transnational Corporations ... then he should call upon the Soviet people as Lenin and Stalin did onto the streets and throw out this regime into the dustbin of history!

Will Zyuganov find the courage and dedication to do this? Or will he again back down from the final confrontation as he and the leadership of CPRF did too many times before? □

HOW WAS V.I. LENIN BURIED?

With a hysterical campaign by the present rulers of Russia determined to rebury "Lenin in a Christian burial" in full swing and constant media barrage aimed at convincing the Soviet people of the necessity of this act and, with a growing mass movement to prevent this horrendous crime of history to be perpetuated, we think it would be of interest to our readers to find out exactly as to why and how it was that V.I. Lenin was buried inside the Mausoleum on Red Square in Moscow.

Below, we publish this historical fact from the newspaper "Serp i Molot" (Hammer and Sickle) newspaper published in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

"On January 27, 1924 at 9 a.m., the ceremony started for the burial of V.I. Lenin. The frost and cold reached -35° . In the columns gathered on Red Square, over 300,000 people were assembled, representing all parts of the country, plus delegations from 36 foreign countries. Over 1,070 wreaths were counted and photographed. More than half of them were from workers across the country of Soviets. There is nothing in the annals of history to match this devotion and love to a leader. The funeral procession and ceremony lasted 7 hours.

At 4 p.m., Stalin, Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin, Rudzutak, Tomsky, Dzerzhinsky started carrying the body to the temporary Mausoleum where Lenin would be laid to rest. All over the land of Soviets, all factories, enterprises, transport and cars came to a standstill.

At the same time, the factories, industrial enterprises, trucks, ships and all transport vehicles started to toot their horns, whistles and fog horns in unison to bid farewell to the great leader, V.I. Lenin.

Because of the bitter cold, it was decided that those that wore light clothed and children should not be allowed to march in the funeral procession. Thousands upon thousands cried in not being able to physically say goodbye to Lenin.

For 4 hours, the columns marched to the temporary mausoleum. All the people, all the working class in the world swore an oath to continue the struggles as led by V.I. Lenin.



HOW DID THE IDEA OF EMBALMING THE BODY OF LENIN COME ABOUT?

During these traumatic days, the CC CPSU received more than 14,000 telegrams, letters plus massive delegations from all of the Soviet society, plus hundreds of requests and suggestions from across the world that the body of V.I. Lenin should be preserved for future generations. This was the voice of the people, not seen in the history of civilization. It is this fact alone that shows the greatness and historical importance of Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

On January 28, 1924 at the special meeting of the CC CPSU and its Politbureau, there was taken a decision to support this idea and demand of the people - to embalm the body of V.I. Lenin and to build the Mausoleum on Red Square, which was then done. The Lenin Mausoleum was visited by over 127,000 people in 1924." □

TO YOU, BELOVED COMRADE

By: Paul Robeson

Below is the full text of a tribute by Paul Robeson to Joseph Stalin upon Stalin's death on March 5, 1953. It was published in New World Review, April, 1953, and reprinted in Paul Robeson Speaks, edited by Philip Foner, pp. 347-349. We are distributing this in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Paul Robeson's birth on April 9, 1898.



There is no richer store of human experience than the folk tales, folk poems and songs of a people. In many, the heroes are always fully recognizable humans – only larger and more embracing in dimension. So it is with the Russian, Chinese, and the African folklore.

In 1937, a highly expectant audience of Moscow citizens – workers, artists, youth, farmers from surrounding towns – crowded the Bolshoy Theatre. They awaited a performance by the Uzbek National Theatre, headed by the highly gifted Tamara Khanum. The orchestra was a large one with instruments ancient and modern. How exciting would be the blending of the music of the rich culture of Moussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Khrennikov, Gliere – with that of the beautiful music of the Uzbeks, stemming from an old and proud civilization.

Suddenly, everyone stood – began to applaud – to cheer – and to smile. The children waved.

In a box to the right – smiling and applauding the audience – as well as the artists on the stage – stood the great Stalin.

I remember the tears began to quietly flow, and I too smiled and waved. Here was clearly a man who seemed to embrace all. So kindly – I can never forget that warm feeling of kindness and also a feeling of sureness. Here was one who was wise and good – the world and especially the socialist world was fortunate indeed to have his daily guidance. I lifted high my son Paul to wave to this world leader, and his leader. For Paul, Jr. had entered school in Moscow, in the land of the Soviets.

The wonderful performance began, unfolding new delights at every turn – ensemble and individual, vocal and orchestral, classic and folk-dancing of amazing originality. Could it be possible that a few years

before in 1900 – in 1915 – these people had been semi-serfs – their cultural expression forbidden, their rich heritage almost lost under tsarist oppression's heel?

So here, one witnessed in the field of the arts – a culture national in form, socialist in content. Here was a people quite comparable to some of the tribal folk of Asia – quite comparable to the proud Yoruba or Basuto of West and East Africa, but now their lives flowering anew within the socialist way of life twenty years matured



under the guidance of Lenin and Stalin. And in this whole area of development of national minorities – of their relation to the Great Russians – Stalin had played and was playing a most decisive role.

I was later to travel – to see with my own eyes what could happen to so-called backward peoples. In the West (in England, Belgium, France, Portugal, Holland) – the Africans, the Indians (East and West), many of

the Asian peoples were considered so backward that centuries, perhaps, would have to pass before these so-called “colonials” could become a part of modern society.

But in the Soviet Union, Yakuts, Nenetses, Kirgiz, Tadzhiks – had respect and were helped to advance with unbelievable rapidity in this socialist land. No empty promises, such as colored folk continuously hear in the United States, but deeds. For example, the transforming of the desert in Uzbekistan into blooming acres of cotton. And an old friend of mine, Mr. Golden, trained under Carver at Tuskegee, played a prominent role in cotton production. In 1949, I saw his daughter, now grown and in the university – a proud Soviet citizen.

Today in Korea – in Southeast Asia – in Latin America and the West Indies, in the Middle East – in Africa, one sees tens of millions of long oppressed colonial peoples surging toward freedom. What courage – what sacrifice – what determination never to rest until victory!

And arrayed against them, the combined powers of the so-called Free West, headed by the greedy, profit-hungry, war-minded industrialists and financial barons of our America. The illusion of an “American Century” blinds them for the immediate present to the clear fact that civilization has passed them by – that we now live in a people's century – that the star shines brightly in the East of Europe and of the world. Colonial peoples today look to the Soviet Socialist Republics. They see how, under the great Stalin, millions like themselves have found a new life. They see that aided and guided by the example of the Soviet Union, led by their Mao-Tse-tung, a new China adds its mighty power to the true and expanding socialist way of life. They see formerly semi-colonial Eastern European nations

building new People's Democracies, based upon the people's power with the people shaping their own destinies. So much of this progress stems from the magnificent leadership, theoretical and practical, given by their friend Joseph Stalin.

They have sung – sing now and will sing his praise – in song and story. Slava – slava – slava – Stalin, Glory to Stalin. Forever will his name be honored and beloved in all lands.

In all spheres of modern life, the influence of Stalin reaches wide and deep. From his last simply written but vastly discerning and comprehensive document, back through the years, his contributions to the science of our world society remain invaluable. One reverently speaks of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin – the shapers of humanity's richest present and future.

Yes, through his deep humanity, by his wise understanding, he leaves us a rich and monumental heritage. Most importantly – he has charted the direction of our present and future struggles. He has pointed the way to peace – to friendly co-existence – to the exchange of mutual scientific and cultural contributions – to the end of war and destruction. How consistently, how patiently, he labored for peace and ever increasing abundance, with what deep kindness and wisdom. He leaves tens of millions all over the earth bowed in heart-aching grief.

But, as he well knew, the struggle continues. So, inspired by his noble example, let us lift our heads slowly but proudly high and march forward in the fight for peace – for a rich and rewarding life for all.

YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT NSC? WRITE!

In the inspired words of Lewis Allan, our progressive lyricist:

To you Beloved Comrade, we make this solemn vow

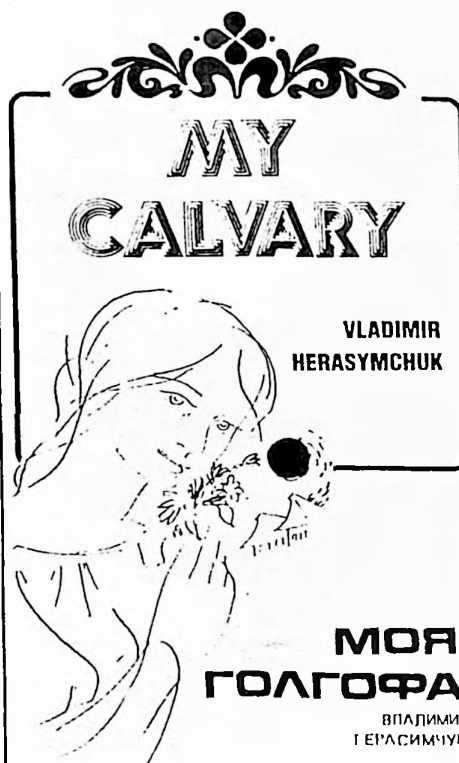
The fight will go on – the fight will still go on.

Sleep well, Beloved Comrade, our work will just begin.

The fight will go on – till we win – until we win. □

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NEWS FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION

From Newspaper:
"ZAVTRA – TOMORROW"
Moscow



Listen. Press your ear to the pavement of the Red Square. Come close to the heart of the veteran-patriot. Come close to Mother's chest, now the devastated Motherland. Are you listening? – Steps! Stalin is coming!

Stalin – is greater than a man.



Greater than a historical figure. Greater than an epoch. He is – a cosmic appearance, appearing more and more often in the Russian sky – when it is imperative to show the world that there is another world and another way, a different history – “another world and sky”. There is Russia and there is the Soviet Union.

Russia – this is a mystical land, where among great rivers and forests, there are hundreds of different languages and peoples.

You cannot describe Stalin in folktales, events in his private life, you cannot count the numerous party congresses or with “Ten of Stalin’s commands”. All this is a portrait of Stalin in only two



**"ПРАВДА.
ОДНА ТОЛЬКО ПРАВДА" –
КЛЯНЕМСЯ!**

dimensions. Stalin is described by mystics as the opposing struggle between an Angel and the Devil,

struggle between two stallions, two Icons, two histories.

Stalin – is there, on the Red Charger, as the Red Icon, fighting the darkness. Stalin always fought the enemies of the people.

You can see in history Stalin without his cap, in his wolfskin coat covered with frost, at the wooden Lenin Mausoleum, standing over the Red grave. You could see Stalin in his army coat bidding farewell to the Red Army columns as they marched past the Mausoleum on Red Square. You could also see how Marshal Stalin looked at the Fascist flags being thrown on the ground in front of the Lenin Mausoleum.

In these three situations, you can see and feel the real Stalin.

Stalin, Malenkov, Kalinin, Mikoyan and Marshals/Generals inside the Kremlin, May 1945.



He grabbed Russia in his hands as a person grabs a man by the hair when he is drowning in mud, while the drowning man swears to all to hear against his saviour. Where there was stinking mud, there now stands proudly a university. As an Angel, Gagarin flew the skies.

Today, the Russian people, the Soviet people again find themselves in an abyss. Where there was Russia, now is rotting dirt. In this rotting dirt, there are all sorts of snakes, crocodiles, water insects and other despicable matter. These "leaders" are similar to rotten fish.

But – listen more carefully! Bring your ear closer to the pavement of the Red Square. Listen to the coming thunder on all continents. Not far away, you can hear footsteps.



"Not a step backward! Now, this must be our main appeal." – J.V. Stalin

Look up at the sky, the dark Russian sky. You can just hardly discern the whirlwind. Coming is the loud whistling flaming spiral.

If you have ears, then listen! Stalin is approaching!

– Alexander Prokhanov

**FELIX
GORELIK**



WHY IS THE WORKING CLASS NOT UP TO A DECISIVE STRUGGLE?

By: Felix Gorelik

Why is the Soviet working class accommodating its masters, when for more than 6-8 months, they do not receive pay for work done? I'm a street agitator. Many times, I tried to explain and agitate the workers at enterprises and mines. My impressions are very negative and disappointing. My understanding at the moment is the Soviet workers are not ready for a political, revolutionary struggle. Why is this so?

1. Under Soviet times, they were helped by the party, governmental agencies. They did not have to struggle or protest, since all things were done in order to help the working class achieve a good standard of living, health care, vacations, culture. They just had to approach any district office of CPSU or other agencies and their requests were fulfilled to the best that was possible. Therefore, the working class lost all manner of experience to struggle, to have to organize to defend their rights. At the present, there is no outright

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determination as yet for struggle on the country-wide scale that is needed to achieve their goals. The Soviet workers did not yet learn what is meant to be in a class struggle!

2. The working class still cannot overcome the shock of the traitorous acts by the top leadership of the CPSU and to the new changes that have taken place. The favourite saying is this: "All this was done by the Communists! The present government that is ruling is Communist as before!" Formally, the workers are correct. Was it not the General Secretary of the CPSU (Gorbachev) that dismembered the USSR and CPSU? Gorbachev, members of the Politbureau of CPSU, secretaries of CC CPSU in all of the former Soviet Republics ... they all dismembered the Soviet Union ... they all were the leaders of the counter-revolution who are now instigating the "reforms"; and today, they are presidents, heads of government, heads of banks, private enterprises, stock exchanges, etc., etc. Workers now have a hard time to realize who is a Communist and who is pretending to be a "Communist". The workers know that after 1953, these "Communists" got themselves all sorts of privileges, and then they sold the Motherland and became again the "owners with privileges". "We do not believe any more, anyone!" – these are words often heard spoken by the workers.

When you try to agitate them to take part in political actions for socialism, they say: "If you come to power, you shall be the same as the present regime!"

We need personalities, leaders like Victor Anpilov, who, by his personal courage and example, is dedicated, brave, who will again make this noble word "Communist" clean from the dirt that was and

is being piled on it. Present government leaders are trying by all means to diminish the effectiveness of Anpilov. They bribe some leaders with high pay, privileges, they get them elected into the Russian Duma or Supreme Soviet of Ukraine ... thus, the effectiveness of these deputies (communists) is undermined in the eyes of the workers.

The opportunistic position of Gennady Zyuganov and many deputies-communists, who vote to support the present regime of Yeltsin, voting for approval of the devastating Financial Budget in Russia or to accept the unconstitutional Constitution of Ukraine – this is another blow to the authority of communists.

Therefore, the lack of personal or class history of struggle, not being able to throw off the constantly promoted mirage of “market reforms”, illusions promoted by daily TV and press, loss of workers’ authority – all this gives an image of communists as unreliable – this is the first step.

Former leaders of trade unions, who were very ably accommodating the former directors of enterprises, they are now also co-operating with the present capitalist class, selling the working class down the economic tube. The new labour leaders who came to the fore during 1980’s are sick with anti-communism, do not want to co-operate with honest dedicated communists. What is needed is to get on our side the lower ranks of trade unions, on the factory floor of enterprises, the activists and to change the top leadership of most of these so-called “trade union leaders”.

With the threat of unemployment, these leaders play on the fears of the workers. Due to this situation of fear, uncertainty, each worker tries to save his job in

order to feed his family, the workers are now so disoriented that they do not trust one another; amongst them are constant spies for the private and government sectors – these stool pigeons report back to the head of the trade union committee, to the owners (many foreign) about any plans for demonstrations or work stoppages and strikes.



But in spite of the above, the workers are beginning to think about the present situation ... all these factors are beginning to dispel the built-up illusions, they start to think as to why this catastrophe happened; realizing the difference between careerists in the trade union leadership who were the main army inside the CPSU after 1953 ... these underground “communists-Leninists”, who were the ones who dismembered and sold out, liquidated the CPSU and the USSR.

Is there no other road to bring up the revolutionary spirit of the working class except agitation and constant explanation?

Yes, there is!

There is another reserve of people who, together with the working class, can accomplish greatness! This is work amongst the army! V.I. Lenin was able to be successful because the Bolsheviks were able to agitate, work amongst and convince soldiers and sailors.

Today, there is a mass elimination of educated Officers in the Army and Navy; between 600,000 – 800,000 officers are being eliminated! Officers sometimes do not get paid, when the army is in a critical situation, when the officers’ wives are forced to demonstrate to feed the family and close off roads to the army bases – it is the officers who are capable of starting a revolution as was done in many countries such as Portugal when the “Movement of Captains” was successful.

It is no wonder that Yeltsin is constantly removing, changing Generals and high ranking Officers ... he is afraid of the army. Yeltsin is dismembering the army as such, forming “Palace Guards” who are loyal to him and his administration. They also kill officers who are known to be agitating by arranging “Manoeuver Accidents”.

The new generals that he appoints, he buys them off with pay and perks, giving medals indiscriminately. But the middle officer cadres are solid. It is from this section that future “Decabrists” must come from. These officers must choose either the present regime or the Motherland; support the present traitors or put their lot with the working class and a revolutionary outburst to help the people. If they shall await better days, or if they are still under an illusion that they too might receive a higher rank, they shall find themselves more likely on the streets without any defense, housing, money, profession or medical help.

Bolsheviks must organize amongst the middle officers their cells, who will be prepared at the right moment to help the working class regain socialism and the resurrection of the Soviet Union. This movement shall immediately be supported by the working class who will see their allies!

Of course, those "communists" who now support the present regime shall not support the actions of the officers and workers. This then shall be seen by the working class as a traitorous act and the lessons will be learnt as to who is who!

I can truthfully state that talking amongst many, many officers, there are many who are ready to take resolute action, if there was such an organization amongst the officers. The position and speeches by present General Rokhlin shows the correctness of this method of action – and action such as this is finding more and more receptive understanding amongst the officers! □

AN APPEAL FROM KIEV

Dear Comrades!

In the city of Pervomaïsk, Lugansk district of Ukraine, the state police organs are harassing the chairman of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, working at the Nenzhinski Mine. In May-June of 1997, the coal miners, headed by George Archipchuk, organized many meetings and demonstrations to protest not receiving their pay for over 9 months.

Aside from these meetings of protest, in May of 1997, the miners took over the administration building and set up a workers' committee to run the city. The workers fought against capitalist take-over of the mines. Nothing was gained by their two-week hunger strike, their battles with the militia or the 3-day march of protest in Lugansk ... hardly any gains were made by the coal miners.

Now, the bourgeois Ukrainian government has decided to liquidate this workers' union and harass the leadership. Therefore, their attention

was turned onto the leader George Archipchuk and charged him with 3 counts of conspiracy with long jail term.

On January 20, 1998, our organization started a campaign of solidarity with this labour leader. We organized picketing at the Ministry of Justice in many cities of Ukraine. We issued leaflets and distributed them widely at factories, industries, unions and organizations.

To struggle meaningfully against the present capitalist might can only be done by systematically organized campaign by the working class.

Our organization, Revolutionary Communist Youth, is appealing to you comrades for solidarity and help.

Send letters, telegrams of protests to the following addresses:

- Ukraine, Kiev
ul. Orlika 4 – Supreme Court
- Ukraine, Lugansk District
City of Popasnaya
ul. Suvorova 6 – District Court
- Ukraine, Lugansk District
City of Pervomaïsk
ul. Vorovskoho 1/1
Major of Militia S.A. Nebeskomu
- Copy please send to:
Ukraine 252146
Kiev 146
P.O. Box 331/7
– Comradely Yours,
Bureau of Revolutionary
Communist Youth [RKM]

The Editorial Board of Northstar Compass has sent a letter of protest, plus the Canadian Friends of Soviet People and the newly formed Organizing Committee for International Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

We urge all our readers to bombard the above addresses with letters of protest. We cannot allow nationalist-fascist Ukrainian organs to stifle the demands of the Ukrainian people! □

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

On March 5, under the auspices of Union of Communist Parties – CPSU, there took place discussions of the leaders of the Communist Party of Russian Federation, G.A. Zyuganov and Russian Communist Workers Party, V.A. Tiulkin, about the principles of understanding between the two parties. After these discussions took place, a joint Statement of Understanding was adopted. The biggest stumbling block in the discussion was that Tiulkin demanded that in this joint statement, there should be included that there are "serious disagreements" – Zyuganov demanded that these words should be stricken from the statement, but Tiulkin stood his ground and these words remained in the text. □

From Newspaper: "COMMUNIST" Ukraine

There is a saying that "a good proprietor will never chase his dog into the street". But our rulers (Ukrainian government) do not feel any qualms making elderly people sell their goods on the streets in order to try and feed themselves or their close ones. These old pensioners are forced to stand in the rain or blizzard to trade in goods, since their old age pensions are not forthcoming for many months. Just recently, I found out that in 1997 alone, there were 1,200 pensioners in Donetsk district of Ukraine that committed suicide! Most of them ended their lives because they had no money to buy the necessary medicine or enough to eat. This is the most horrific crime of the century – thus eliminating the older generation through starvation or by suicide!

– Michael Starovojtov, pensioner

COMMENT:

Where is the outcry from all those "Human Rights Activists" that are so ably financed by who knows whom? Where are the former so-called "progressives" in the West (in the Ukrainian or Russian communities) that purposely do not publicize an item of such horrendous inhumanity as this?

Where is the "United Nations Organization" that seems to see every "human rights speck" in countries, but cannot even blink an eye for the 1,200 pensioners forced to commit suicide every year?

Where is the "Communist" press in the capitalist countries that should be the first to make this terrible crime known to its members and readers of their press? □

**From:
BULLETIN OF
LEFT INFORMATION CENTRE
Moscow**

This Bulletin is sent to Northstar Compass by our readers so that we can be informed about ALL of the happenings that are taking place



Gennady Zyuganov

inside the upheavals of the patriotic-communist forces. Again, we state that it's unfortunate that we do not

have a weekly newspaper to include all of the numerous activities that are taking place in the mass movement against the present regime.

Below, we publish just some excerpts that show beyond a reasonable doubt as to where CPRF and Zyuganov stand on very important issues.

On February 13, Zyuganov gave a press interview in Moscow. In a far ranging interview, he said the following: "We were able to do away with groups and even our own members were supporting this left movement inside our ranks. We are for a further opening of our ranks to all parties, peoples-patriotic movements, trade unions, national oriented capitalist class, which want to work for Russia, in the name of Russia and to enlarge the capitalist class inside of Russia."

To a German journalist's question as to how he looks at Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto, Zyuganov replied: "It was a document of its epoch. We cannot throw away the private enterprise as Marx suggested in the Manifesto!"

To another question from assembled correspondents regarding dictatorship of the proletariat, Zyuganov replied: "In the Bible, the Koran and the Thorah, there is a command to love thy enemy as you would love yourself. Therefore, the dictatorship of one class against another is not valid. We must have understanding amongst classes."

Regarding the process of unification of all Communist parties into one union, Zyuganov answered: "There are laws in each country as to the process of unification. We must submit to the present laws. We feel that time is now only for consultation, not unification."

Editorial Board of NSC feels that there is no need to comment. Each reader will draw his or her own conclusion. □

**From Newspaper:
"TRUDOVAYA ROSSIA"
Organ of the
Russian Communist Workers Party**

**CRISIS OF YELTSIN'S
REGIME HAS BECOME
CRISIS IN THE
LEFT OPPOSITION**

The problem of the splinter parties of left orientation in Russia has become the most critical and always emotionally charged discussions, but for many comrades, it is still not understandable. First of all, the constant question as to "When are you people going to unite?" are asked of all the parties – the most numerous being the CPRF and the oldest party after 1991: the RCWP.

On the question as to "What is preventing this unity?", the RCWP replies: only one detail, and that is the none communist leanings of CPRF. These are the analyses that were done and is being done by the Congresses of Russian Communist Workers Party. This is based on the program and work of CPRF.



There are all sorts of suggestions as to how to achieve the much needed unity. RCWP is not against many suggestions at all. We are against opportunism in the first place. The other point is the

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problem between what the CPRF states in their program and what, in actual life, it does!

All of us remember the phraseology and statement by Gorbachev about "more Socialism", "more democracy", "more openness", while at the same time, he was doing all in his power to liquidate the USSR. The same in many instances holds true for the work of the Communist Party of Russian Federation (Zyuganov).

This is not just hear-say of RCWP but if you read letters and demands of rank and file members of CPRF, you shall be aware that they also criticize the departure between words and deeds as practiced by the leadership of CPRF.

Even in 1992, the RCWP discussed the question as to how to achieve this illusive unity. It was evident even then that the leadership of Zyuganov's party are none other than the former CPSU leaders of yesterday who sold the country to counter-revolution without a whimper! These same "leaders" voiced their opinions for market economy, privatization, and started to lead the country into capitalism.

Many dedicated communists at that time switched parties - some went into the CPRF and others into the RCWP. We wished those comrades who went into the "bigger party" luck, and hope that their ideas of working for change inside the CPRF produces results.

Those comrades who went into the CPRF, trying to bend the party more to the left, have tried for years, but unfortunately, with very little success. CPRF is sick within itself and this is seen not only by us, friends, but also by enemies. Our party is open to debate and our ranks are not closed. Our dedication is to Socialism and the resurrection of the USSR. □

From: Bulletin of the SOCIAL-POLITICAL INFORMATIONAL AGENCY CRIMINAL STATE

According to data by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, there exist now over 5,500 criminal organizations which have a membership of 10-15 persons each. But there are over 150 criminal groups whose membership consists of 100 to 1,000 members each and they are spread all across Russia and now their tentacles reach around the world, tying in with the USA mafia in many countries.

Besides the above, the country has over 500 ethnic criminal groups.



In Moscow alone, the 150 gangs control 40,000 businesses of all sorts; amongst them are over 1,500 large enterprises and industrial complexes, besides 500 joint ventures, 550 banks and all the markets and stock

"Not a step backward! Now, this must be our main appeal."

- J.V. Stalin

exchanges. According to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, these criminals have accumulated capital worth over 2 billion dollars.

In Yeltsin's own birthplace, Sverdlovsk region, there are over 300 bandit gangs who control all banks, plus 90% of commercial and 40% of state enterprises. In Tula, these gangs control all guns and this is so wide spread that this part of the country is an armed camp. These are manufactured in legal and illegal enterprises.

According to Russian Federal Control Agency, the money laundering that goes on is now over 50 trillion dollars, most of it going outside the country, into offshore banking. These gangs not only terrorize the population but also the bank personnel. From 1993-1995, there were over 400 employees of the banks murdered.

The Yeltsin regime not only exports gas, oil, forest products en masse, but also exports the Mafia. According to its own Ministry of Internal Affairs, there exist over 300 gangs outside of Russia, comprising about 4,000 members. Inside the USA, there exist 24 gangs exported from Russia and tied in to the USA Mafia.

In this criminal regime of Yeltsin, the country shall never prosper or be solvent. For this, we have to get rid of this criminal regime. The criminal elements have permeated the whole of society from top to bottom.

- Victor Likhovidov

Knowing all this unbelievable situation in the regime of Yeltsin, how can anyone support this regime? How can so-called "civilized Western countries" support with billions of dollars a regime that by all standards should be tried as War Criminals?

Yes, time is surely coming when Soviet people shall put these criminals on trial and eventually, their backers, whose only credo is PROFIT! □

NEWS DIGEST COMMENT

From Newspaper:
"TORONTO STAR"

BRAINS AND BEAUTY A 'FRIGHTFUL' PAIRING

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russia's Communist Party chief, in a departure from effusive speeches marking International Women's Day, was quoted as saying yesterday nothing is "more frightful" than a woman both clever and pretty.

Itar-Tass news agency said Gennady Zyuganov told female journalists he was particularly fond of clever women and of pretty women but there was "nothing more frightful" than those qualities combined.

Zyuganov, who finished second to Boris Yeltsin in the 1996 presidential election, said he preferred women "who do not ask too many questions and, after offering advice, don't come back the next day to see whether it has been acted on. In general, women should not argue about critical issues."

International Women's Day, March 8, was promoted during the Soviet era as a means of underscoring the equality of the sexes that Communist leaders said was absent in the West.

Zyuganov praised 18 Communist members of parliament as "charming and attractive" women, whom he, without hesitation, would include in his proposed "government of national trust".

He told reporters it was difficult to say whether his own household was patriarchal or matriarchal. "It's a matriarchy in the kitchen, where I listen to everyone, especially those

best at keeping me fed."

COMMENT:

If a comment that was made by Zyuganov of the Communist Party of Russian Federation was made by a leader of a political movement in many countries of the world, there would be a storm of protests, not only by women, but by most of the media ... and that in a capitalist country!

How anyone can stoop so low, be so patronizing and anti-women as Zyuganov, stretches the imagination.

And this so-called "communist" wants to lead the Soviet people to "socialism"?

In Canada, for instance, Zyuganov would be picketed and in some cases, even taken to court for "defamation of women" and be barred from appearing on TV or as a guest.

Speaking these words on the occasion of International Women's Day is a terrible injustice not only to women, but to the whole cause of humanity. AND ... for someone that still calls himself a "communist", this is unforgivable and any leader of this type should resign from his post!

Zyuganov does not deserve to lead a party such as CPRF! It's about time that the membership of CPRF took a hard look at this "leader" before it's too late. Why?

Because, when you start sliding down the slippery slope of chauvinism, the end of the slide is nothing but a dung heap! □

CONSEQUENCES OF POLICIES BY PRESENT RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

* 200,000 FACE AXE

Russian government now has plans to fire over 200,000 state workers and thus save \$9.25 billions, the Financial Times reported. It is part of an International Monetary Fund backed austerity program.

RUSSIA EXPORTING TB (TUBERCULOSIS) TO THE WORLD

Russia's raging TB epidemic has spread to Scandinavia through emigration and threatens Western countries, officials of the World Health Organization warned.

Because of the collapse of health care as previously was guaranteed during Soviet times, this disease now kills over 3 million in the world each year. This disease was eradicated during Soviet times.

Russia now has the highest growth of TB cases in the world, even beating out Third World undeveloped countries for this honour. Russia posted a 28% increase in TB cases over the past two years. Russia has estimated 2,000,000 TB sufferers and the number of new cases grew from 50,641 in 1990 to 111,075 in 1996 and increasing alarmingly each year.

COMMENT:

Can anything more devastating be said or written? Is there no end to the suffering of Soviet people? How then can we explain the position of the present "Communist Bloc" in the Russian Duma? Is it not time that these members of Russian parliament took a stand to save their own people?

**IS IT NOT TIME TO UNITE
FORCES TO DISLODGE THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT?**

Of course, it is the Soviet people that shall do this task. We, as friends of Soviet People, can only help them morally and other help that their devastated people need.

**IT IS IN OUR AND HUMANITY'S
INTERESTS THAT THE PRESENT
REGIME MUST BE THROWN OUT!
IMF CANNOT AND MUST NOT PUT
SOVIET AND OTHER PEOPLES
INTO GRAVES FOR SHEER
PLUNDER AND PROFIT! □**

SPECIAL FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS

"It's hot in here. Shrouded in this body bag, I feel claustrophobic. It's smelly too. The cloth in front of my mouth is damp from my breathing. Dust from the filthy street swirls up under the billowing burqa and sticks to the moisture from my covered mouth. I feel like I'm suffocating in stale air.

"It also feels like I'm invisible. No one can see me. No one knows whether I'm smiling or crying. My view isn't much better. The mesh opening in front of my eyes isn't enough to see where I'm going. It's like wearing horse blinders. I can see only straight in front of me. Not above or below or on either side of the path I take. Suddenly the road changes. I step

on the front of the hideous bag that covers my body and tumble to the ground. No one helps me. It feels like no one in the world wants to help." — Fatana, 28

Who "in the name of Allah" has decreed this wretched fate on the women of Afghanistan? A ragtag band of bandits called the Taliban, who are mostly illiterate and mostly in their 20s, thundered into the capital city of Kabul on September 27 of last year, and overnight the lives of women and girls were catapulted back to the dark ages. After hanging the government leaders in the public square, the Taliban announced their draconian decrees on the radio: schools for girls were immediately closed. Women could no longer work. They had to be completely covered by the head-to-foot wrap called a burqa and kept in purdah (secluded from the public) because, according to the Taliban's leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, "A woman's face cor-

rupts men." Afghanistan has become a place where mothers and wives, sisters and daughters, are seen as a holy threat. Today, a woman can only leave her home in the company of her husband, brother or son, and only if she is shrouded in the hated burqa and carries a permit that gives her reason to be outside.

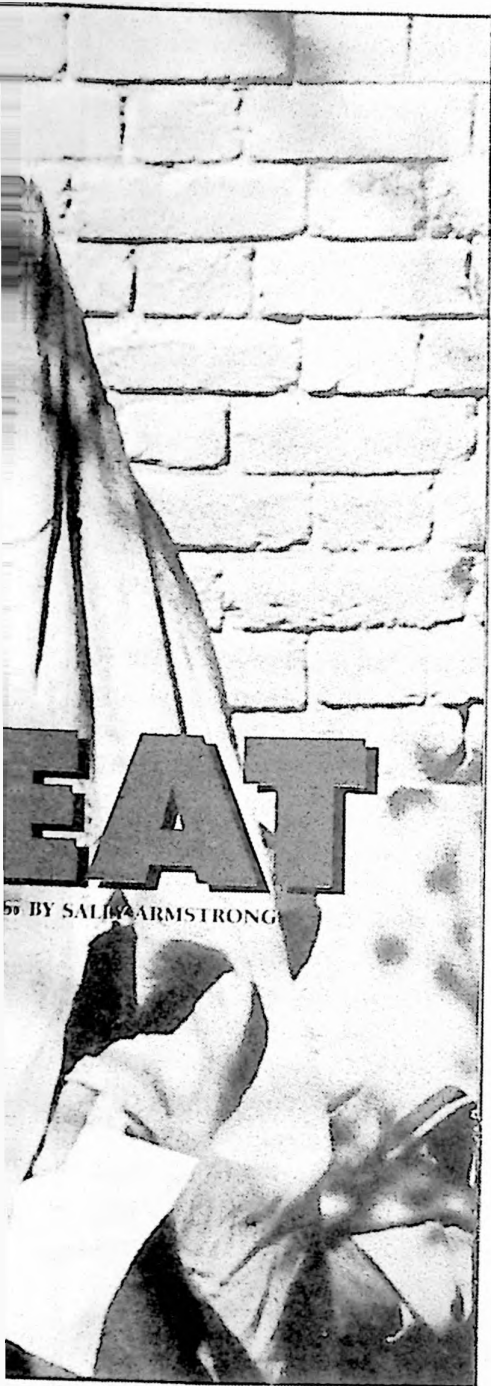
To disobey is to die. Soon after the takeover, a group of women in the city of Herat marched in protest. According to eyewitnesses, the Taliban surrounded the women, seized their leader, doused her in kerosene and burned her alive. Women have been sprayed with acid, beaten with twisted wires and shot for crimes such as showing their ankles, letting a hand slip

out from under the burqa while paying for food, allowing their children to play with toys. For being outside with anyone who is not a male relative, the sentence is death by stoning. The hooligans in power dig a pit and bury the woman to her shoulders. Then they form a circle around her and throw rocks at her head until she is dead.

They say they do it for Islam. But Muslim scholars all over the world say this has nothing to do with Islam. It's a grab for power and control in a country that's been struggling with unrest for 18 years. It is also misogyny, a contempt for women that goes hand in hand with the disturbing rise in extremism in Muslim countries. In

VEILED THR

STORY AND PHOTO



Bangladesh, a woman can receive 50 lashes for speaking her mind. In Pakistan, a rape victim can be jailed for fornication. In Saudi Arabia, women are forced to cloak themselves in black chadors that absorb the stifling heat while men walk about in white robes that deflect it. Afghanistan is a human rights catastrophe.

Astonishingly, this throwback to a medieval era has created a strange wall of silence. The United Nations is wringing its hands. Government leaders are looking the other way. And the women of Afghanistan are asking what in the world is going to become of them.

I met Fatana, 28, a psychiatrist, Farahnaz, 26, a civil engineer, and Mina, 28, a



When the Taliban took over, Farahnaz, a civil engineer (left), Fatana, a psychiatrist (centre) and Mina, a pharmacist, had to cover themselves in burqas and stay at home in purdah.

pharmacist, six months after the beginning of the darkest days this country has ever known. [We agreed that their last names, the towns where they have found shelter and their former employers would not be named to protect them from the terrible retribution of the Taliban.] For them, life under the Taliban is nature thrown into reverse. They're like spring blossoms that were forced to fold their beautiful petals back into their casings. With downcast eyes and sagging shoulders these young women describe their grievances in words that make me think of a line from the poem *In Flanders Fields*. "Short days ago we lived." They went to university in Kabul, wore jeans, short skirts, met at the restaurants on Da Afghanistan street and went to discos on Froshga. Like other young people, they walked along the river and through Pul bagh Vuumi park with their boyfriends. Their lives were full, their futures hopeful.

But the convulsions that shook the country out of communism in 1992 threw the formerly cosmopolitan city of Kabul into utter calamity. Extremist factions fought each other for control for four deadly years. Last autumn, the ultra-extremist Taliban won the spoils of war. And women like Fatana, Farahnaz and Mina became invisible. Their jobs, social lives and self-esteem disappeared overnight.

"On September 26, we were at work," says Fatana. "Everyone was anxious. The Taliban were near the city. We were waiting for something bad. At noon most people went home because we could hear the shelling. We'd heard about Taliban policies and we were afraid for our futures."

The next morning they heard about the fate of the government leaders on the radio. And they heard the Taliban's misogynist manifesto for women. "I'd never owned a burqa in my life," says Fatana. "Most women in Kabul had never even worn a scarf over their heads." When I ask her what effect this will have on the men-

tal health of the women, Farahnaz speaks up. "I can answer that question for you. I've lost my mental health. I don't want to leave my house. I start to laugh or cry and I don't know why. I feel sad all the time. And I cannot concentrate. The other day I was helping someone with accounting and I realized I'd entered the same number over and over again. I have no hope for my future and, what's worse, I have no hope for the future of my two children."

Today the streets they walked on as students are like a moonscape. The shops are closed. So are the restaurants. Sixty per cent of the city has been destroyed. The roads are full of holes. There's garbage all over

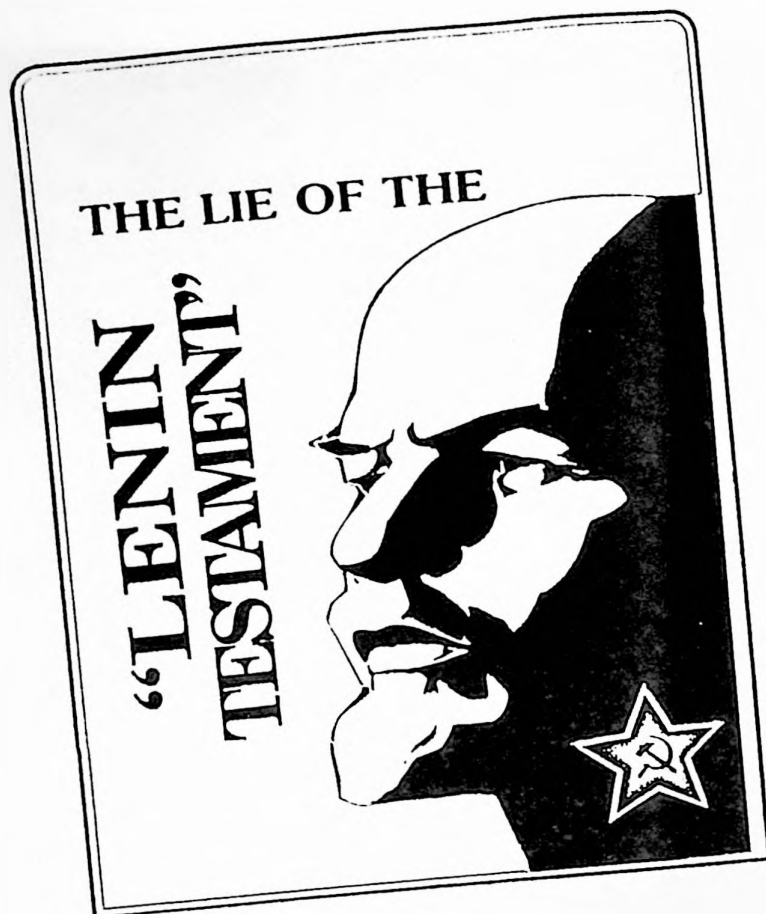


Women face death if they are not totally shrouded in public

the place, there's no electricity in most parts of the city and few people have running water. The university has reopened for boys only. Women doctors have been allowed to return to work but only to treat women patients. And if women and girls can't find a woman doctor, tough luck. "Let them die," say the Taliban.

In the absence of any real protest from the international community, a litany of new regulations is visited upon the people on an almost daily basis. Radio and television are forbidden. So is music, clapping, singing and dancing. Photographs, even at weddings, are considered unIslamic. So are sports for women. Makeup, nail polish, high-heeled shoes and white socks – the only item of clothing that shows beneath the burqa – are also forbidden

... continued on Page 21



Trotskyites, in order to discredit Stalin, have made several serious allegations. These of course began with Trotsky himself, as he jockeyed to gain control of the CPSU(B) after the death of Lenin. One of the most influential distortions of the truth, has been Trotsky's claim that before his death, Lenin had warned the party that Stalin should be removed from party leadership, and replaced by Trotsky. This lie still has currency, and is referred to as the so called - Lenin Testament . It is accompanied by the claims that Stalin subverted Lenin's plans for the party, and acted with gross megalomania. We will examine this spurious claim in detail here. Three recent articles when taken together, we argue, will allow us to do this.

We believe, these articles should force the unbiased reader to reject the Trotskyite claim. North Star Compass feels that it is necessary, to present the real facts regarding these documents. The documents have circulated now for over 70 years, and have been promoted, circulated, falsified and used as one of the main weapons against the USSR, Stalin and Socialism. This particular lie - the so called Lenin Testament , has been published in practically all known languages of the world. It has been well nurtured, affecting numerous communist and progressive movements in one form or another. The dissemination of the lie was part of a conscious attempt to defame Stalin and the development of Socialism In One Country.

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BEWARE OF THE M.A.I.!

By: Lloyd Redstone

The Canadian government is presently being sued in the courts for loss of profit and potential profit by a foreign company for banning the use of a gasoline additive which was found to be a pollutant and a health hazard by Canadian scientists. There can be no question that this is a blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign country! This is the direct result of the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement. This is only a small indication of what we can expect if the M.A.I. is signed.

At last count, there were over 46 organizations in Canada opposing the Multilateral Agreement on Investments. The people of Canada elected their government to supposedly represent their best interests, not those of the large multinational corporation. Instead of living up to their mandate, the Canadian government seems to be hell-bent on supporting the proposed dictatorship of the M.A.I., which would come into effect should this agreement be signed.

It would render Canadians powerless to govern their country. This would give the Multinational Corporations the right to move money and manufacturing from one country to another, wherever they could extract the most profits. Although this is being done even now, if this agreement is signed, then the open door policy would prevail. This will also allow these Multinationals to sue anyone whom they might perceive as trying to obstruct them.

Should the powers that be in Ottawa [Canada] go through with this agreement, a charge of HIGH TREASON should be considered by the Canadian electorate! □

(white is the color of the Taliban flag). There's to be no noise made by women's feet when they struggle to the bazaar to



find food and water for their families. Windows must be painted black to prevent anyone from seeing a woman inside the house. New houses can have no windows on the second floor. In a stupefying rationale, Omar explains the Taliban's actions against women by saying, "Otherwise,

they'll be like Princess Diana."

There are 30,000 widows in Kabul who are virtually destitute. When asked how they should cope, the Taliban reply again, "Let them die." In a particularly hateful response to the handicapped, some men have told their disabled wives that they'll no longer require prostheses as they no longer need to be seen outside.

Afghanistan is a country about the size of Manitoba. It has five major tribes that have warred endlessly throughout the centuries. It was a monarchy until 1972 and a republic until 1978 when the Soviets invaded. Then it became one of the last violent crucibles of the Cold War. The detested boot camp rule of the Soviets spawned the Mujahideen (Freedom Fighter) camps across the border in Northern Pakistan. Funded by the United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan itself, the Mujahideen were like folk heroes who represented a spiritual return to pre-communist Afghanistan. But within the camps, several factions jockeyed for power, each pretending to be more religious than the next to win the support of the people. In the process they planted the seeds for a fratricidal bloodbath that began with the defeat of the Communists. Life under the victorious Mujahideen proved to be as violent as it had been under the Communists and more religiously strict than the people had ever imagined. Enter the Taliban, young hoodlums who had never been to school and never known anything but war. Presently they control two-thirds of the country.

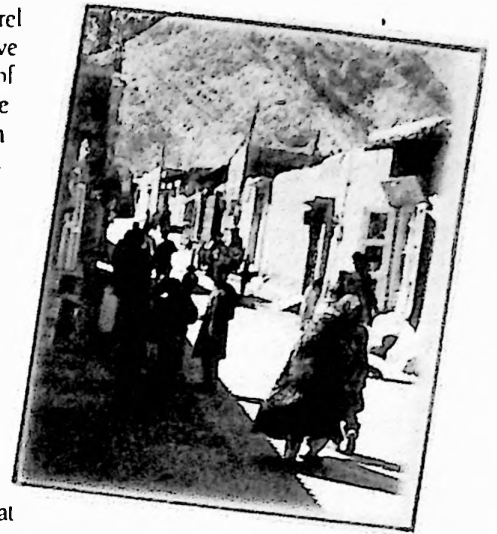
While the world has clearly grown weary of Afghanistan and its 18 years of war, the people trapped in that country and the 500,000 refugees who escaped to border towns in Northern Pakistan are

hoping someone will "take up our quarrel with the foe." Although the Taliban have no official role in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, their presence throughout the north is threatening. The steady rise in fundamentalism in Pakistan leaves many Afghan refugees and native Pakistanis in this northern region wary. Many women continue to wear burqas out of fear. Others are careful to cover up just to avoid attention from the extremists. There's an uneasy calm. It's like waiting for an intruder.

At the northwest corner of a Pakistan border town called Quetta, the Afghan diaspora is burgeoning. The dusty, rock-strewn landscape that unfolds from the huge mountains here at the west end of the Himalayas is similar to the refugees' native land. The miniature yellow wildflowers that push defiantly out of the scrubby soil grow like symbols of their struggle. The diorama of contrasts — mud houses and rented two-story homes, the delicious scent of fresh-baked naan bread from the bakeries and the putrid stench from the latrines in the street, the fear and longing of the people — is the quintessence of life in a refugee centre. It was here in Quetta that the Mujahideen assassinated the leader of the Afghan women's movement a decade ago. It is here that I meet Dr. Sima Samar, a precious head on the world's scanty string of humanitarians.

"I have three strikes against me," she says by way of introduction. "I'm a woman, I speak out for women and I'm a Hazara, one of the minority tribes." The road she travelled from Helmand, the Afghan province where she grew up, to this refugee centre in

Quetta, is strewn with the history and customs of her beloved Afghanistan. Her father had two wives (a usual practice for many Islamic men and one she doesn't approve of). She won a scholarship to go to medical school but her father told her she couldn't leave the family because she wasn't married. So a marriage was arranged (another usual custom) and she went to Kabul University. But during the upheaval that finally routed the Communists, and soon after she'd given birth to their son, her husband was arrested, never to be seen again. Samar



The rhythms of life rock uncomfortably on the streets of Quetta.

managed to finish medical school and wound up practising medicine in a rural district. Her experiences there brutally demonstrated that the lives of women were nearly unbearable and that lack of education was a direct cause of the turmoil her country was in. She decided to do something about both conditions.

Today she runs medical clinics in Quetta as well as Kabul. And she has clandestine schools in rural Afghanistan for more than 4,500 girls, as well as a school for refugee girls here in Quetta. Her steadfast refusal to observe purdah and the stand she takes on equality for women have made her anathema to the fundamentalists and a hero to the women she serves.

When asked how she gets around the paralyzing rules of the extremists' interpretation of the Koran, she shakes her head in astonishment at her own audacity: "Let me tell you a story," she begins. "A 16-year-old girl came with her parents to my clinic. A quick urine test and cursory examination told me what I suspected. She was six months pregnant and terrified. The law according to the extremists is that a woman who is raped must have four male witnesses to prove that she didn't cause the rape. Naturally no such witnesses are ever available.

Without them the family is obliged to kill the girl to protect the family honor. This



Dr. Sima Samar

kid had kept her terrible secret until she could hide it no longer. I had to decide what to do. I don't approve of abortions unless there is absolutely no other way. But if I didn't do something for this girl, she would be killed. I chose life.

"Remember, most people here don't have any education, so I can get away with saying things they may not question. I told them their daughter had a tumor and needed surgery: I said she was too sick to have it now and she would have to stay at my clinic. I kept that girl for three months. When the baby was due, I did a caesarean section. The family waited outside the operating room because it is the custom here to show them what was found in the surgery: I put the placenta in the surgical basin, showed them the so-called tumor and told them their daughter would be fine. Then I gave the baby to a woman who was also in trouble because she is married and infertile."

Dr. Samar can't change the law by herself but she's part of a group that hopes it can. It's an international network called Women Living Under Muslim Laws and it presently has links to 40 countries and an increasingly powerful voice at the United Nations. Farida Shaheed, the Asian coordinator of the association in Lahore, Pakistan, won't even use the word fundamentalist. "It suggests a return to cherished fundamentals of Islam, which it certainly is not," she says. "Extremists aren't religious at all. This is political opportunism. Their strength is in disrupting the political process and using that to blackmail those in political power."

It worries her that such groups are



At the refugee camp in Quetta, this woman doesn't have to wear a burqa, but still she feels compelled to hide her face behind a veil.

gaining momentum because of what she calls "a refusal of mainstream political parties in Muslim countries to produce democratic rule. But women are gaining as well. There's an unprecedented num-

ber of women coming into the workforce [in Pakistan] at the same time that the extremist groups are saying, 'Stay home.'"

They fight back at their peril. Members of the association have been harassed on the street and had firebombs thrown at their houses. And Sima Samar receives so many death threats from the Taliban, she simply replies, "You know where I am. I won't stop what I'm doing."

The rhythms of life rock uncomfortably at Samar's clinic. Her patients, who pay about 30 rupees (\$1 Canadian) per visit, come with their full wombs and fears of infertility. They suffer all the ills that refugee camps are heir to: malnutrition, anemia, typhoid fever, malaria. In the lineups at the door, they whisper news of the latest atrocities and decrees of the Taliban. Today, there's a terrible message from Jalalabad, a city across the border in Afghanistan. Yesterday a woman tried to leave. She was wearing her burqa but walking with a man who was not a relative. She was arrested by the Taliban and stoned to death. The man she was with was sentenced to seven years in prison. There's still a hush in the clinic: when suddenly the curtain is pushed aside and a woman appears with her Taliban husband. He tells Samar that his wife bleeds from her nose whenever she works hard in the fields. Samar raises her voice: "She's full-term pregnant, she shouldn't be working so hard." The man replies, "She has to work. Fix her nose." Another young woman has been menstruating for 11 months. Her blood pressure is dangerously low. She's as weak as a sparrow. The



Fauma Gailani says the actions of the Taliban have nothing to do with Islam. "They go against the Koran, in fact."

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After surgery, the doctor is obliged to show family members the results of the operation.

doctor says she needs a simple D and C (dilatation and curettage) but culture interferes again. She's a virgin. The simple operation would destroy her virginity, which in turn would destroy her life. So abdominal surgery is scheduled.

As the war against women rages on, a new

and menacing problem is turning up at the clinic. "Almost every woman I see has osteomalacia," Samar says. "Their bones are softening due to a lack of vitamin D. They survive on a diet of tea and naan because they can't afford eggs and milk and, to complicate matters, their burqas and veils deprive them of sunshine. On top of that, depression is endemic here because the future is so dark."

Samar is angry with what she sees as all talk and no action on the part of world organizations that claim to be pressing ahead with issues for women. "Recently the UN held a meeting in Quetta for all the various factions to discuss Afghanistan," she says. "They met at a hotel for three days. Can you imagine what that cost? Well, the meeting was for men only. The women were invited to meet for one hour on a different day." There's more. She was invited to attend a meeting in Washington, also held to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. Each delegate was allowed six minutes to speak. Samar was the only woman. She told the gathering, "I represent more than half the people in Afghanistan. How come I only get the same six minutes as all these men?"

homemaker's summer

OUR COMMENT!

Northstar Compass has written about the terrible conditions that exist in Afghanistan for women and the working class in general in a previous issue, but we feel that it warrants a full exposé that was written up in

Homemaker's Journal (Summer) since this is a pro-capitalist, pro-West magazine, serving the upper middle class of society.

The author, Sally Armstrong, exposed the terrible ills of present Afghanistan society, but she failed to tell the readers the cure! Besides, she, of course, takes a swipe at "communist dictatorship", etc. We on our part sent her a reply, outlining our position on this question of Afghanistan which said in part the following:

"It was an excellently researched article about Islamic Fundamentalism in its worst stages as promoted by the Taliban forces that are now in power in that country. What we feel you failed to understand (or maybe you DO understand, but the policy of your journal does not permit you to write it down - Editors) that Afghanistan under the government that was in power before the counter-revolution was successful and which even you should remember was instigated by U.S. imperialism and the West, through Pakistan, Turkey and other Islamic forces which are bent on reconquering the former republics of Soviet Union such as Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, Tadjikistan, Kirghizia and all the way to Mongolia. You also should remember the world-wide photograph of USA's Brezinski who was pointing the rifle towards the legitimate government of Afghanistan which had asked for help from USSR according to their economic and military treaty to help defend it against American imperialism from attack and subversion.

During that time, the women of Afghanistan were never forced to be slaves, deprived of human decency, schooling, and were not forced to go back to the pre-dark ages! Somehow, your memory did not remember this cardinal fact, because your blind hatred of socialism and the former USSR is there for all your readers to see. You do not attack the behind-the-scene "manipulators" of this terrible tragedy.

Of course, how can you attack the present government of Afghanistan whom the West is helping to maintain its hold on Afghanistan people ... after all, we help these outright religious fanatics-fascists very liberally with trade, armaments and diplomacy!

You ask for all women to protest this crime against humanity ... but not a word of condemnation to your government who recognizes this present leadership in the country! Why? You as a woman, obviously your heart aches at this, religious-fascist injustice, it's obvious by your very well researched and written exposé. You should know that protests by individuals, groups, do help somewhat, but the problem is deeper than that!

In Cuba where women are part of society in every sphere of the economy, culture, education, health, government, armed forces, etc., the USA has already, for 25 years, put an embargo against this island, just because Cuba wants to be governed by a system that its people chose. Did you ever ask yourself as to why the West does not impose an embargo against Afghanistan's present regime?

Afghanistan women would appreciate any help that they can get, but by asking the former "King" to come, will not solve the problem at all.

It seems that all of your good

intentions will not produce the desired results at all ... without the basic question being solved. But, Afghanistan is rich in minerals, oil and other resources that the West wants and demands. So ... the question of women is not as important to Transnational Corporations as the rich mineral resources that Talibans will give the West! □

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OUR MARCH (30 min. \$15.00)

This is an award-winning MULTI-SCREEN composition which shows the history of the USSR from Czarist time to the present. Dramatic presentation, archive materials and accompanied with impressive sound.

ETERNAL SONG / RAINBOW OF MUSIC (40 min. \$15.00)

Byelorussian folk songs and dances in vivid costumes. Songs and dances of the Soviet people. All in colour. Excellent!

SONG IS OUR FRIEND (30 min. \$15.00)

Soviet songs performed by different choirs – songs of the revolution, war and peace. An excellent insight into the feelings of the Soviet people.

DZERZINSKI (60 min. \$20.00)

Lenin appointed Dzerzinski to head the CHEKA (Internal Security) in order to fight the spies, counter-revolutionaries and internal enemies who, together with foreign agents, sabotaged, murdered and played havoc with daily life of people building a new society.

MANCHURIA 1945 (30 min. \$15.00)

Film shows actual footage of the fight against militarist Japan and their defeat by the Red Army, plus the liberation of Manchuria.

CHRONICLE OF OCTOBER 1917 (30 min. \$15.00)

Showing events leading to 1917 October Revolution, with much archival material, documents and a look at historical places then and now.

APRIL REVOLUTION (50 min. \$15.00)

The 1979 events in Afghanistan are shown and explained in detail. See the truth of what really happened!

VOICES FROM RUSSIA (48 min. \$20.00)

An excellent video showing now the massive workers' marches of protest against the present regime of Russia on May Day and November 7th, plus interviews with Victor Anpilov of "Workers Russia".

SECRET LIVES OF TRAITOR KING (120 min. \$22.00)

King Edward VIII of England is shown before the Second World War and during, as the actual traitor in British monarchy, fully in contact and cooperating with Hitler. Actual BBC documentary footage. Historical gem, and BBC called the King a spy!

CUBA AGAINST THE ODDS (30 min. \$15.00)

An anti-blockade film shows the world rallying to help Cuba, plus historical footage of Fidel Castro coming to power. Film shows present day life & the life of mafiosi during Batista reign, interview with Castro. Inspiring!

STRATEGY OF ACCELERATION (80 min. \$20.00)

XXVII 1986 Congress of the CPSU and the new policy of perestroika and glasnost. Made by 39 cameramen and technicians.

900 DAYS (50 min. \$20.00)

The siege of Leningrad will go down into history as the greatest struggle for survival of humanity; the courage, the tragedy and heroism of Soviet people.

LEO TOLSTOI (30 min. \$15.00)

His life through photos, actual locations, documents and original film footage.

MAXIM GORKY (30 min. \$15.00)

Life of Maxim Gorky, his stay in Capri, his youth and return to USSR. Lots of original film footage.

KARL MARX (50 min. \$20.00)

Well done documentary that depicts life, work and the historical influence of Marxism on the world.

ANTON CHEKHOV (30 min. \$15.00)

An excellent biographical sketch of this very important great Russian literary genius.

YOUTH FESTIVAL OF WFDY 1968 BULGARIA (30 min. \$15.00)

The most spectacular youth cultural and sports event to be seen, when young people from over 125 countries gathered in Sofia.

CONQUERORS OF THE UNIVERSE (50 min. \$20.00)

The history of the development of the Soviet space program and technology.

V.I. LENIN (30 min. \$15.00)

Historical footage of V.I. Lenin during pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary days in Russia. This film is a classic.

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN (30 min. \$15.00)

The great Russian poet and literary figure is shown and his influence on the Russian literature and culture.

BABI YAR (40 min. \$15.00)

The Babi Yar massacre near Kiev – actual site, living witnesses and footage of captured documentary film taken by the fascists.

FIDEL RETURNS TO HARLEM (30 min. \$15.00)

Fidel Castro on his visit to United Nations Organization, stops to give a talk in Harlem, New York to an overflow audience who gathered at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. This is an in-depth insight into the heroic and diplomatic Fidel Castro.

RUSSIA SECRETS (160 min. \$25.00)

This award-winning video is based on actual footage done by cameramen, plus secret cameras that filmed the carnage of cannon and tank fire against the Supreme Soviet building (White House) and thousands of deaths in 1993. Film is in Russian only, but the graphics and story is so compelling that language is not a barrier. It is chilling, gruesome and this film will be used when the present traitors are brought to justice.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1998 will see more struggle

Protests against military, political and economic aggression

There were rapid NZ and international protests against the US threats to bomb the Iraqi people again.

And against the way the NZ government was ready to send in troops and planes to help the US aggression.

There was a small hardhitting protest outside the RNZAF and SAS base at Whenuapai and outside the US Legation in Auckland.

The US refuses to pay its membership dues to the United Nations. Yet it claims the right to punish Iraq for not obeying the UN interpretation of the UN resolution on the "UN" arms inspection team in Iraq. It is using that US domi-

of world oil resources and selling arms to its "allies" - (note the mounting pressures on NZ to upgrade its armed forces.

GROWING REBELLION

1998 is going to be a year of sharper and wider struggle against the aggressive actions of the "Gangster" state (the USA) and those who want to join its gang (like the NZ government and the big business corporations it represents) for a share in the plunder.

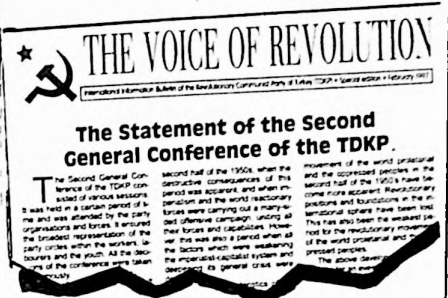
The readiness to follow the US into war and to join its threats of war is accompanied by a willingness to open the country's resources and people to greater exploitation by the US through the Multilateral Agreement on Investments.

We have already had a taste of what this will mean with the way two big US monopolies, in alliance with big NZ capitalists have made billions of dollars profit from the once publicly owned Telecom by making thousands of workers redundant, by raising charges, by building cell tower transmitters in spite of protests by the public over possible health dangers.

And the US giant US Utility-corp did nothing to stop Auckland being deprived of electricity.

The vast profits made by US investors are mainly exported back to the US investors thereby adding to NZ's foreign debt

STATEMENT OF THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY



We reprint part of this excellent analytical statement by the RCPT which is struggling for its life under the fascist dictatorship which is governing Turkey now, supported and abetted by U.S. Imperialism. After analyzing the situation in Turkey, in the world and looking at the weaknesses that developed in the Turkish movement, the RCPT drew the proper conclusions at its Second General Conference, of which we're publishing only a part.

Our readers should be informed that there are a few communist parties in Turkey, as in other countries, who are still trying to unite in a common front against the enemy.

In Turkey, although the struggle between revolution and counter-revolution, between labour and capital, and between the oppressed and exploited classes and the alliance of imperialism and the ruling classes is not yet at the level of a final settling of accounts, the current process is approaching this level. This development is not in the form of a straight line, but of rises and falls.

All these facts prove the importance and urgency of the creation of the united front for the struggle and resistance of the masses. In contrast to the right and "left" opportunist groups, our party does not consider the question of unity as one of "unity of the left" or as "an alliance between the left groups". These groups which do not have any links with the working class and its movement, and the "unity" or "alliance" among them do not play a unifying and advancing role for the movement. On

People's Voice

Newsletter of the Marxist-Leninist Collective
(Communist Party of New Zealand Reconstruction Collective)

nated inspection team as an excuse for maintaining the cruel sanctions on Iraq that have caused over one million deaths (mainly children) in the seven years they have been enforced. (see page 4).

The US even hinted that it could use nuclear weapons.

The US claims that it is defending its "national interests".

Those interests are its control

New Zealand is part of the world being opened up like an oyster for big capital investors to swallow. And big capital is only invested where it can make the biggest profit possible by squeezing more production from cheaper labour.

The year will see more organised struggle against various aspects of the system that can only benefit a few at the expense of the majority. □

the contrary, they play a weakening and liquidating role because of their platforms and their understanding of action. Our party's primary policy with regards to unity is the creation of the united struggle of the broad masses of workers and of a Labour (and Popular) Front with the workers at its centre, as well as the creation a single party of the working class. Existing workers' platforms, trade unions and other social organisations are the instruments to achieve this at present.

In creating a strong front for the struggle against the attacks of capital and the dictatorship, in repulsing these attacks and advancing in the direction of emancipation, the party is the fundamental weapon of the working class. Our conference draws attention to the daily movement of the working class and to the task of giving maximum assistance to the preparation and organisation of the masses - above all the working class - for the revolution, the task of rebuilding of the mass party which will have the ability use to the full all the necessary instruments and opportunities to this end and which will embrace the majority of the awakening sections of the working class, and the task of rebuilding the organisation of communist workers with iron discipline.

After assessing our party's activities in all fields since the First General Conference, our conference came to the following conclusions:

The TDKP has been loyal to the cause of the emancipation of the proletariat in late 1980s and early 1990s when all the destructive consequences of the defeat that the revolutionary movement of the world proletariat and the oppressed peoples began to suffer in the second half of the 1950s appeared clearly, when the period of defeat and retreat was continuing, when imperialism and reactionary forces intensified their offensive, and when the revolutionary movement of the proletariat and the peoples fell to its lowest point. Our party drew attention to the fact that the victory of imperialism, the bourgeoisie and their bases in every country and the defeat suffered by the proletariat, the peoples and the struggle for revolution and socialism were temporary, and that

the general crisis of the imperialist-capitalist system has deepened and has been moving towards a new stage at the time when it was proclaiming its final victory. The TDKP did not allow any jolt or any currents of imperialism and capital with a socialist mask to appear in its ranks even in a period when all the currents, organisations and parties which claimed to be revolutionary and socialist, were shaken, disorganised and disintegrated under the increasing repression and attacks of imperialism, the bourgeoisie and all shades of revisionism in our country and in the world. In such a period, in February 1990, it held its First General Conference and unanimously adopted the resolution to fight against the many-sided attacks of imperialism and all shades of revisionism, to defend all the historical gains of the world proletariat.

Not only in countries like Turkey where a fascist dictatorship reigns but also in the most democratic and stable bourgeois republics, the revolutionary party of the working class has to have a sound clandestine organisation in order to secure the continuation of its activities, the future of the workers' movement, and the development of assistance to and influence on this movement with a revolutionary line which is not restricted by (bourgeois) laws.

In addition to the maximum use of the legal possibilities and the consolidation of the work in this field, one of the most important tasks of the day is the rebuilding and consolidation of the illegal organisation which has the features required to meet the needs of the workers' movement. This is necessary for the continuation of the activities of preparing and organising the revolution and for its success. What is needed is not a so-called illegal organisation which has no links with the workers' movement, which is far from meeting the needs of this movement, and which has become degenerated and become an aim instead of an instrument (for the revolution). What is needed is an illegal organisation with thousands of links, which is sound and capable of utilising all instruments and possibilities and of organising and directing the

struggle for revolution and socialism in the face of the fierce attacks of counter-revolutionary forces. While utilising the possibilities in legal field to the full, another fundamental task facing the conscious sections of the working class, above all the organised forces of our party, is to become perfect in illegal work, to strengthen the clandestine organisation and to encourage the awakening sections of the working class to organise in that organisation.

Contrary to the suggestions of the right and "left" wing of the traditional "left", which stand on a completely liquidationist platform today, legal and illegal organisation and work do not exclude or alternate each other. On the contrary, they constitute the unity of two different aspects of a single aim, complementing and strengthening each other. It is not possible to help the workers' movement develop and to build a sound and constantly strengthened clandestine organisation by turning one's back on the present tasks to advance the level of consciousness, organisation and struggle of the workers' movement, on the most effective instruments and forms of this work, and consequently, on the movement itself.

On the basis of organising revolutionary work based on factories and advancing this work, our conference draws attention to the importance of strengthening and giving full support to the organisation of the working class in the open-legal (economic-political) field, to supporting and consolidating the open/legal workers' press which is one of the most influential instruments of organising and advancing the struggle of the working class, and to using it effectively in the daily work that must be carried out energetically in this field.

Our conference, which has passed resolutions on the questions of organisation, women, culture, youth, overseas organisations and the national question, expresses its belief that all party organisations and forces, advanced workers, and the youth will sincerely and with great sacrifice carry out the decisions of the Second General Conference of the TDKP.

□

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TRORY**



BRITAIN AND IRAQ

I am writing this towards the end of February, a few days before my deadline for the April issue of Northstar Compass. There is a lull in the volume of war propaganda emanating from Washington and Whitehall as a result of the initiative taken by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, but so far, no sign of any move towards reducing the colossal build-up of fire-power in the Gulf threatening the lives of innocent civilians in Baghdad.

Throughout the whole of February, America has led the howling pack with Britain yapping at its heels while France and Russia have hesitated, mesmerized by the smell of oil but not yet wholly convinced that the price is right. Yeltsin has been so far as to warn Clinton that he could "stumble into a world war" by attacking Iraq. In this, Russia has been joined by China, the two of them issuing a joint ultimatum threatening to use their vetoes in the United Nations

Security Council. Other smaller countries have also drawn back. Perhaps they recall the words of a character in one of Bernard Shaw's plays, St. Joan. I believe: "When wolves combine to kill a horse, the death of the horse only sets them fighting one another for the choicest morsels."

The Arab countries that backed American imperialism in the Gulf War are not so keen to take a second bite at the cherry. There is no certainty that they could carry the support of their own people again. Even Saudi Arabia has refused to allow its airfields to be used as bases for the proposed four days continual bombardment of Baghdad, despite the blandishments of Madeleine Albright and Robin Cook, both of

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whom have made personal appearances in Saudi Arabia. Egypt and Morocco have also declared themselves against the use of force. In Tehran, the Iranian Defence Minister, Ali Shamkhani, has accused Washington of trying to divert the American public away from their internal political crisis.

In Israel, it has been reported in the daily newspaper, Ma'ariv, that security officials were predicting that the Palestinian authorities would use a clash between US-led forces and Iraq to incite an uprising in the occupied territories.

Even in Britain and America, there have been signs of revolt against the warmongers. On February 1, in the House of Commons, Labour backbenchers led by Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, questioned whether "gunboat diplomacy" was the answer to the escalating Middle East crisis. Elsewhere, John Nichol, an RAF navigator who was held captive by the Iraqis after his plane had been shot down in the Gulf War of 1991, also questioned the expediency of air attacks.

On February 9, the Washington Correspondent of the Guardian newspaper reported that General Norman Schwarzkopf, the former commander of the US forces in the Gulf War, had warned that the US was risking another Vietnam if it bombed Iraq.

The New Worker, organ of the New Communist Party of Britain, gave front page space on February 13 to the following announcement: "IN THE EVENT OF BOMBING ... THERE WILL BE A VIGIL IN WHITEHALL, ACROSS THE ROAD FROM DOWNING STREET." This was backed up by an editorial which opened with these words:

"Clinton, Blair and Albright have been singing from the same hymn sheet for months. They are making a

concerted effort to convince their own voters and as many governments as possible that their war threats against Iraq are justified. But in Britain, the opinion polls show that today there is less support for military action against Iraq than there was at the time of the previous onslaught in 1991."

On February 18, the Guardian newspaper reported that the United Nations Secretary-General was preparing to embark on a journey to Baghdad in "a last-ditch effort" to find a diplomatic solution. After a day of haggling among the five permanent members of the Security Council", he had been given a less than rousing send-off, with America reserving the right to act in its own interests if it could not agree with the result.

In another part of the same newspaper, it was reported that Bahrain had withdrawn its support for military strikes against Iraq; that the militant Muslim organization, Hamas, had threatened more suicide bomb attacks on Israelis in the event of air strikes against the Iraqi President; and that Lebanon's Foreign Minister had stated: "Military action against Iraq is totally unjustifiable ... as the Security Council stops short of executing its resolutions with other countries", pointing out that "Israel continues to occupy part of south Lebanon twenty years after a United Nations Security Council resolution called for a withdrawal."

On February 19, the Guardian reported the unbelievable. At a 90 minute public meeting in Columbus, Ohio, broadcast live around the world by CNN television, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, Defence Secretary, William Cohen, and National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, faced repeated critical questions, jeers and chants as they attempted to

justify US and British plans to bomb Iraq if diplomatic measures failed to settle the weapons inspection issue.

On February 22, protesters in Washington heckled Madeleine Albright as she entered the ABC television studio there, chanting: "1-2-3-4; we don't want a racist war!" A day or two earlier, Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, was shouted down at the University of Minnesota and forced to abandon his speech. A recent CNN survey showed 50 percent of respondents were against bombing Iraq, with only 41 percent in favour and 9 percent undecided.

Against all the odds, Kofi Annan returned in triumph from Baghdad, to be applauded on arrival at the United Nations headquarters by the whole of its staff - a unique moment in history. Saddam Hussein had agreed that United Nations inspection teams would be able to search controversial palace compounds if accompanied by a multinational team of diplomats who would act as observers. Never mind that such an agreement could have been signed months if not years ago, it was signed now. For the time being at least, the United Nations had wrested the initiative from the USA and its hangers-on. The Iraqis had shown dignity in the face of a bullying duo. They had shown that they were not the Afridi villagers of yesteryear, to be bombed into submission by an aggressive imperialist power. Clinton had lost his chance to try out his own updated weapons of mass destruction on a live target. He had lost his chance to rally the nation behind him in military action and left himself exposed to the bitter

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domestic crisis over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Attention has already been drawn to the fact that the USA still owes £1 billion in dues to the United Nations. It is time now for the world's richest power to pay up and look big.

There will be glum faces in Westminster too. "The government was more supportive of the American line than the American people were", one "left-winger" is reported as having told a Guardian reporter, according to its February 24 issue. The whole affair will want some living down.

By the time you read this, of course, the whole picture may have changed again. But I do not think the US will try again too soon to go it alone, even with the support of New Labour. There is now a new crisis casting its shadow before it. On February 23, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, suggested that "the latest breathing space should be used to address Israel's non-compliance with United Nations resolutions, which embitters Arab moderates." □

THE NEW WORLD WAR *Rich Versus Poor*

By DOUGLAS MATTERN

THE HUMAN QUEST

W RITING in *Le Monde*, French academician Bertrand Poirot-Delpech places the emerging global economic crisis in perspective: "The temptation is to snuff ourselves off, cover our eyes and applaud the use of force, but the tide of the poor keeps coming, wave after wave, each time stronger and stronger. The Third World War has begun, waged by the rich against all the others."

About 1.3 billion people exist in abject poverty, living in shanty towns, gar-

bage dumps, and land without resources. The U.N. estimates another 100 million people will be added to the poverty list within the next four years. The World Bank estimates the number to be 200 million. One and one-half billion people have little or no medical care. About the same number do not have clean drinking water. At least 500 million children have no schools. Life expectancy in Sub-Sahara Africa is so low that few people live beyond 50 years of age. The number of homeless people in the world is over 100 million, including 30 million children.

Every year 500,000 women die from pregnancy problems because they lack rudimentary medical aid. Women comprise 70% of the world's poor. Each day, according to U.N. statistics, tens of thousands of people, mostly children, die from malnutrition and easily preventable disease. The casualties in this "rich versus poor world war" are far higher than the carnage of World War 11.

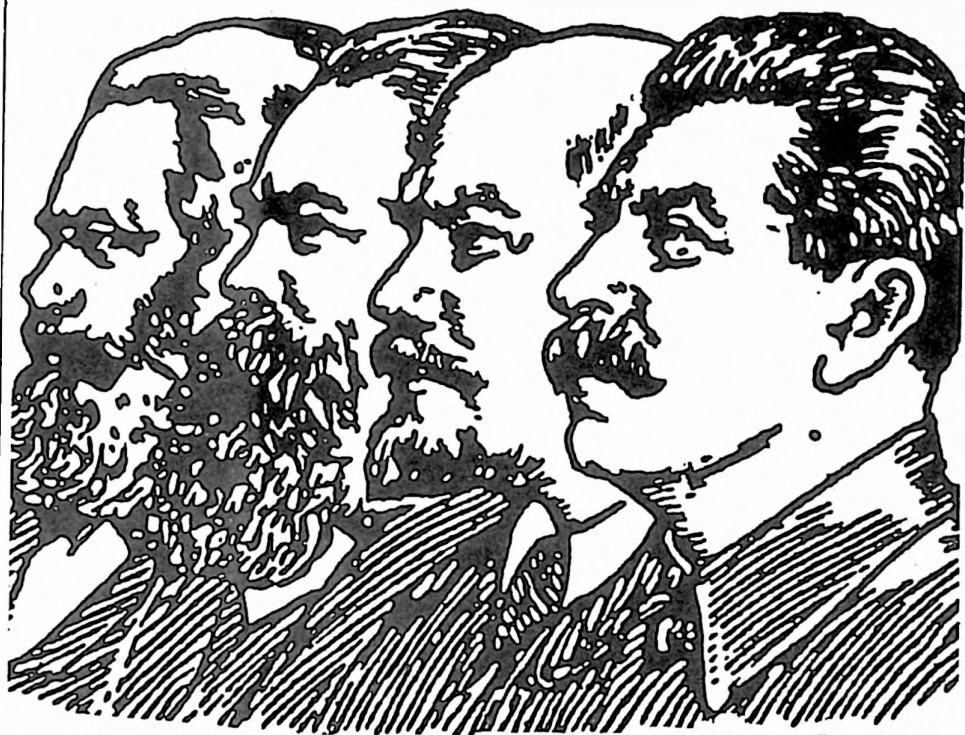
The global income inequity is so extreme that 358 billionaires (with a collective wealth of \$760 billion) have as much wealth as over 40% of humanity (more than 2 billion people). And while the number of poor continues to expand, the rich keep getting richer. Just 20% of the world's population now own 83% of the world's wealth. This same 20% consume 80% of the world's resources.

This warfare is being carried out under the banner of the "free-market." This is the philosophy of the rich elite and the cornerstone of their "New World Order." But the market rules without conscience, without care, without responsibility. It's a game of global monopoly ruled by greed and managed by banks, money brokers, investors, and continue the struggle until the ultimate emancipation of the working class. It fought against bourgeois and petit-bourgeois non-working class tendencies which emerged in its ranks and did not allow them to divert the party from its path. It learnt lessons from its mistakes and its practice and struggled sincerely to fulfil its responsibilities not only for the working class of our country but also for the working class of the world.

The TDKP placed at the centre of its activities the maximum level of help to the development of the level of the leadership, consciousness, organisation and struggle of the working class and gave special importance to the youth, despite all the weaknesses and shortcoming of

this section of society, as they represent the future. It has distinguished itself from other currents and organisations in every field with its position in and relations with the mass movement, especially the workers' movement. Our party has become the only current which carried out activities among the workers and which has the potential to advance the workers' movement, while all other currents claiming to make the

work of the traditional left. This so-called underground work of the traditional left has no links with the workers' movement and with its needs. Instead, these elements hid behind the excuse of secrecy and security, and did not have the courage to make the change and development in their way of thinking, living and working that is required by the needs of the workers' movement. Our party did not have the



THEIR TEACHING INSPIRES AND GUIDES HUMANITY!

revolution and establish socialism moved towards bourgeois liberalism or individual terrorism.

What prevented our party from renovating and making the necessary changes in time in the relations between its slogans and forms and methods of organisation and the struggle in accordance with the changes in the conditions and according to the development of the workers' movement, were the reflections of bourgeois liberalism in various fields, above all on organisational discipline, and the practical opportunism in its ranks which represented the so-called underground

ability to use to the full all the possibilities and instruments developed both by the progress in the workers' movement and by the activities it carried out.

Moreover, these possibilities were paralysed as a result of these tendencies and weaknesses in our organisation. These tendencies had opportunity to develop in recent years when the dictatorship's attacks intensified on our party and were able to be effective due to the delay in the rebuilding and renovation of the party, and when extraordinary measures had to be taken in order to minimise losses under these con-

ditions.

The changes in conditions, the level of development of the tendency especially among the advanced workers to organise as a separate class, the outcome of the activities carried out by our party so far and its position and influence in the workers' movement, all these have proved that the agitation and propaganda and organisational activities which - despite the mistakes and weaknesses - advanced our party's work, and the organisations, positioning of the cadres and the relations between the forms and instruments that it used in carrying out these activities have become obsolete. It has become inevitable that we renew and develop these activities with new forms and instruments. It was not possible to achieve this transformation through some partial changes, while keeping the old organisation and old perspective. It could only be achieved through rebuilding our party in every field - legal and illegal - and purifying and renewing its forces. Our conference approves all the decisions of the Central Committee taken with this perspective and the steps taken in practice by our party. It draws attention to the decisive relation between the rebuilding of our party, the renovation of its activities in all fields according to the changes in conditions, and the ability that all the party forces will show in overcoming their weaknesses.

Nearly 40 million Americans live below the poverty line, including 22% of American children. Legislation based on the Republican Contract with America will guarantee that more than one million additional American children will be added to the poverty roll. The Contract will end 60 years of guaranteed federal aid to poor children.

The defining statistic comes from the non-partisan Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. They show that the United States has the worst economic disparity among their 25 member nations. The Republican Contract With America will only exacerbate this condition. It is really a contract on working people, on the poor, on the United Nations (new Republican bills in congress threaten to eliminate all U.S. funding to the U.N.), and on progress.

One example of this latter point is recent Republican legislation that cut 35% from the population and planning

budget of the Agency for International Development, the largest of such programs in the world. With the world population at 5.7 billion and increasing at the rate of 100 million people each year, this action is mind-boggling in its obliviousness to global needs.

From a global perspective, we have two choices in this emerging Third World War:

(1) We can support a rich elite that rules by intimidation and violence, condemning countless millions to perpetual poverty to satisfy their material greed, and ruining the environment for profit in the process.

(2) We can reject this perverse "New World Order" and work for an economic policy that neither rapes the environment for profit nor guarantees a deep division between rich and poor. One action program is to eliminate the current Stone-Age mentality in Congress by voting Republicans out-of-office in 1996. At the same time we must seek and elect people to office who have the vision and courage to create economic policies based on peace with social and economic justice. Any hope of creating a progressive society, and the "Global Village" needed for the 21st century, depends on this second course of action. ★

Douglas Mattem is President of the Association of World Citizens, the main world citizens organization of this country. He lives in Palo Alto, Calif., and is a Contributing Editor of *The Human Quest*.

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

**From:
DNEPROPETROVSK
Ukraine**

Dear Comrades:

We are informing you that on our initiative (Plenum of Central Committee Party of Communists [Bolsheviks] of Ukraine) in October 1997, we suggested to all Communist parties in former USSR that a Medal be designed and produced called "Stalin Medal". This idea was written up in our newspaper "Yedinstvo - Unity". At that time,

even some dedicated comrades thought that it was not time and not needed - but now, nearly everyone thinks that it is about time. In this regard, the journal Northstar Compass has to receive credit for always promoting the truth about Stalin, which, in no small way, has a lot of influence among our people.

Hopefully in the near future, such a Stalin Medal will be given to comrades who do outstanding work for the dictatorship of the proletariat and promoting the works and ideals of Marx-Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

- Edward Oyaperv
CC Party of Communists
[Bolsheviks] of Ukraine

Below, we reproduce the sketch as to how this Stalin Medal shall look.



NEWS FROM U.S. FRIENDS OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS

**From:
Hudson, WI., USA**

Enclosed please find \$200 Canadian towards the work of NSC and its future work!

- Mary Kral

Again, we are indebted to your constant support and dedication to the resurrection of the Soviet Union. □

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FRIENDSHIP NEWS

ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF J.V. STALIN

You died. We cried!
We are crying even now.
Your death changed the world,
Just like your life.
Like a powerful earthquake.

Life goes on.
Salesmen and gangsters rule former
Soviet Union now,
The people suffer, children are
hungry,
Millions of beggars walk the streets,
the highways.
Women are forced to sell their bodies
for a piece of bread.

Our enemies are smiling.

The old dying aristocrat, tsar's relative,
The former Major of Whiteguards
in Kronstad,
The rich bankers on Wall Street,
And the Orthodox rabbi in Jerusalem,
All of them are smiling.

They enjoy our defeat, they are
laughing.

Because we, the Soviet people are
suffering,
And suffering enormously.
But nobody, no human being and
no nation

Suffers forever. Our tragedy will
come to an end

And the Mighty Soviet Union will
rise from the ashes again!

Because of the ironic logic of events,
The bankers, the traitors, the cruel
murderers

Will pay with their lives for their
horrendous crimes.

The Soviet Union will be blooming
again.

Children will be fed and on any
Sunday morning in May,
Thousands upon thousands of
red flags will cover
Our beautiful capital, Moscow!

We will be victorious!

Unity! Unity! Unity!

This is the key word. This is the
future of our land.

We, the people, promise you our
beloved
Leader and Father,
Yosif Visarionovich Stalin –
The victory will be ours!

– Victor Parandon
Toronto, Ontario, Canada □

OBITUARY

WILLIAM (BILL) CRAIG

Another dedicated friend of
Soviet people and a staunch fighter
for peace and understanding has
left our ranks.

Bill was always jovial, optimistic,
never ceasing to believe that
socialism is the answer for humanity.
His membership and participation
in the Canadian Friends of Soviet
People was always to help in this
cause.

As a founding member of the
Northstar Compass Editorial Board,
Bill added his wisdom and his energy
(although being in poor health)
always ready to help both morally
and financially the friendship with
Soviet Union and its people.

William Craig passed away on
March 12, 1998, leaving his wife
Harriet and children, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren in sorrow.

May your example be followed
by all of us and may your optimism
permeate all of our thoughts! □

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SALT & PEPPER ON WRY

By: Frank Ray Davis

HEADLINE: "CIA Recognizes
Its Errors in Bay of Pigs Attack" – Its
biggest error was not recognizing
what the heck it was doing in Cuba
in the first place.

The CIA did admit its "arrogance,
ignorance, and incompetence". But
then, no news there.

• • •
SAVE FREE ENTERPRISE:

President Bill Clinton plumped so
hard for another Iraq war that he
even got on his allies' nerves. Better
he should expend his fire power on
the White House's ladies' auxiliary.

But let's not be too hard on poor
Bill. He was only doing his PR duty.
You see, generations of Americans
have been robbed of adequate health
care, education, housing, pensions,
etc., to pay for beautiful bombers,
rockets, and other kill-toys. Bill was
only trying to show them that their
sacrifices were not in vain, that they
contributed to Freedom, blessed
FREEDOM. Er, uh, well – the freedom
of oil companies and other Free
Enterprisers to profiteer, anyhow.

• • •
SMUG SLUG: Guadalajara's
Cardinal Sandoval pontificates that
"Consolidating education requires a
Catholic identity to sustain it, and
anyone who lacks this identity has
nothing to offer." How deep would
an ostrich bury his head in the sand
after similar pontification? □

SECRET DOCUMENTS

THESE DOCUMENTS WERE NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH. THEY'RE FROM NKVD-KGB AND CC CPSU FILES; PLUS PERSONAL FILES OF J.V. STALIN.

The original documents received were published in "Military Historical Journal" only



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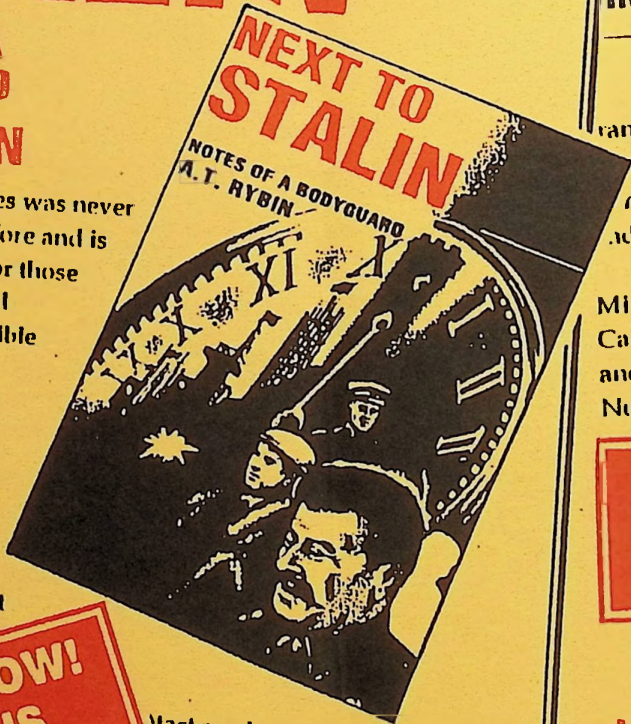
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All the documents were translated from Russian into English by Michael Lucas, President of Canadian Friends of Soviet People and Editor of "Northstar Compass". The book was edited by Professor Michael Ukas, Vice President of Canadian Friends of Soviet People and Member of Editorial Board on Northstar Compass.

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