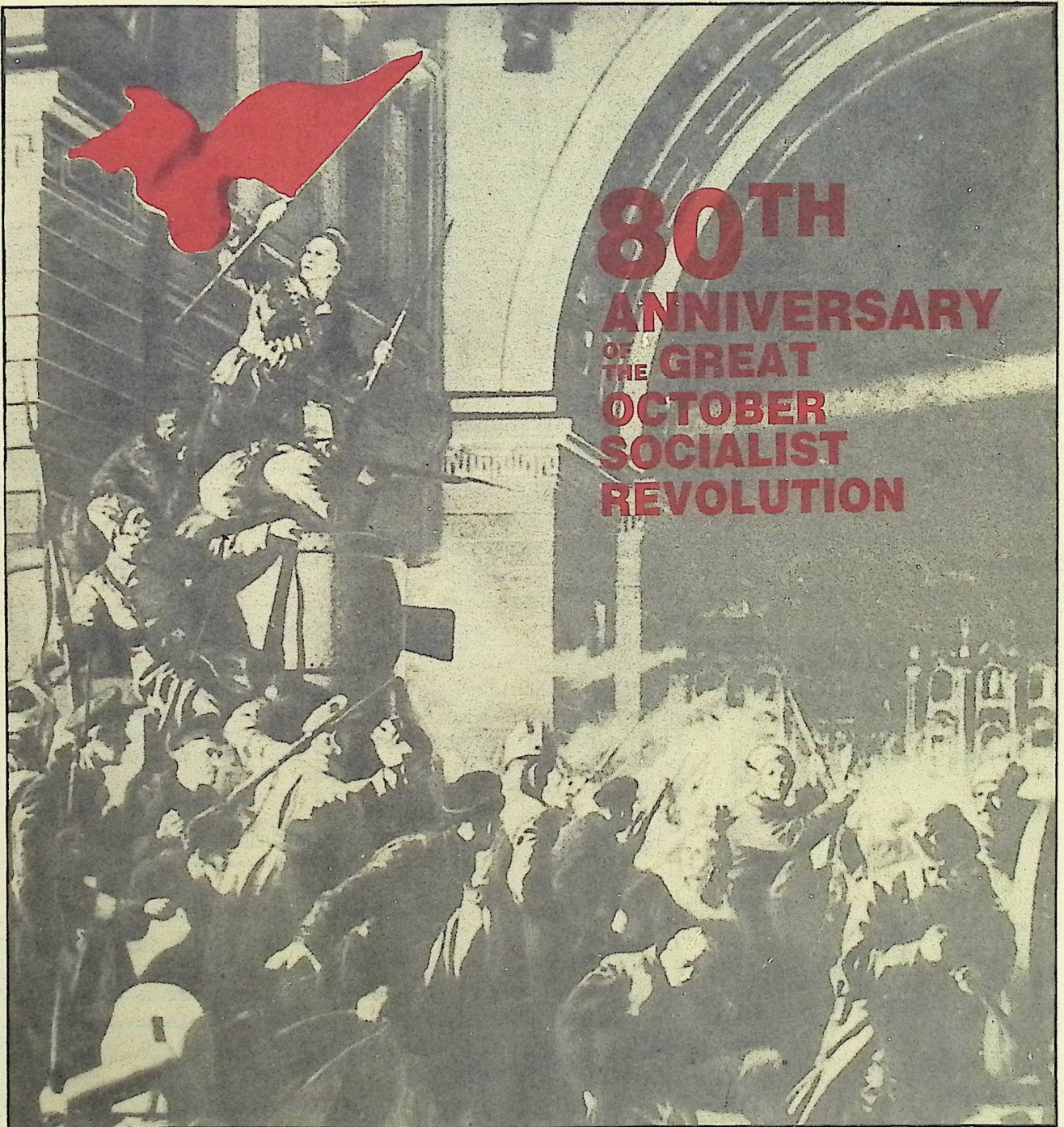




northstar COMPASS

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CREDO OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS

Northstar Compass is the public voice of the Canadian Friends of Soviet People (formerly Canada-USSR Association) and is dedicated to the resurrection of the Soviet Union as a Socialist State.

In our tradition since 1918 (Hands Off Russia Committee) we are devoted to international cooperation in building socialism and solidarity in a world at peace.

YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT NSC? WRITE!

We Do Produce Totally By Volunteer Labour.

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE PROLETARIAN, BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION OF 1917 ... AND ...TODAY, EIGHTY YEARS LATER ...

By: Ray Stevenson

No other event in human history can match the profound and historically progressive future for human development than that created by the Great October Proletarian Revolution in Russia in 1917.

Carried through under the leadership of the young, revolutionary Russian working class, supported by the poor peasants, soldiers deserting from the Czar's Army, and some sections of the intelligentsia, under the slogan "Peace, Land And Bread", the indispensable factor for their victory was the firm, audacious leadership of Lenin's Communist Bolshevik Party. In turn, the revolutionary tactics developed by Lenin were based on the class struggle experiences of the Marxist First International of Workingmen founded decades earlier by Karl Marx and Frederic Engels and their associates.

An additional factor in the Revolutionary victory over the Czars, Russian and international capitalists who jointly controlled the country was the effective and widespread support offered the new Revolution by the international working class, in countries even across the oceans. Tribute must here be paid to the activities and almost spontaneous growth of the "Hands Off Russia" Committees that sprang into being in Canada. These played a significant role, particularly on the east and



V.I. Lenin amongst the participants of the storming of the Winter Palace.

west coasts by blocking shipment of war materials to the Imperialist sponsored fourteen armies of intervention that had invaded Russia to smash the Revolution. Lineal descendants of those proud committees are still with us in the form of the Canadian Friends of the Soviet People.

The massive "sea-change" in world political and economic life forced by the Bolshevik Revolution broke the world-wide chain of exploitation and enslavement under which the people groaned and fought for life. Lenin had defined and exposed "Imperialism" as monopoly capitalism. Exploitation and subjugation of the industrial working class was supplemented and made doubly profitable by the super-exploitation of the groaning masses of humanities' majority in the colonial holdings of Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, the U.S.A. - and at that time, to a small

degree - Canadian monopolists and exploiters who ruled by gun, whip and corruption in the colonial holdings.

The October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution broke that global chain of plunder, pain and terror and proclaimed the building of a new society in Russia. Within short years, what became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics removed one-sixth of the world land mass from that exploitation.

Economic exploitation, class conflict, joblessness, poverty, disease, racism, sexual inequalities, human degradation were to be abolished in the building of that new society. The production and distribution of values and wealth, trade, commerce and social requirements were all to be constantly enhanced and geared to the needs of the people, and the ability of the society to produce ... that was the face and thrust of

continued on page 5... 3

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION

STEPS TOWARDS REVOLUTION: YEAR – 1917

FEBRUARY 25 (MARCH 10) – All inclusive, city-wide strike in Petrograd.

FEBRUARY 26 (MARCH 11) – The Proclamation of the Petrograd Committee of RSDRP[B] with a call for the establishment of a Temporary Revolutionary Government. The coming of units of the army to the side of the uprising workers.

FEBRUARY 27 (MARCH 12) – February Bourgeois Democratic Revolution takes place in Russia. The Tsar is overthrown. The setting up of the Petrograd Soviet of workers and soldiers deputies.

MARCH 12 (MARCH 25) – Return of Joseph Stalin from Turukhansky political exile to Petrograd.

APRIL 3 (APRIL 16) – Return of V.I. Lenin from emigration.

APRIL 4 (APRIL 17) – V.I. Lenin spoke to the revolutionaries "About the tasks of the proletariat in this revolution" (April Thesis).

APRIL 24 (MAY 2) – Opening of the VII Conference of Bolsheviks, after discussions, the thesis of V.I. Lenin was adopted.

APRIL 28 (MAY 11) – The beginning of organization of the Red Guards in Petrograd.

JUNE 7 (June 20) – The opening of a Conference of the front and civil army units of the RSDRP[B] in Petrograd.

JUNE 8 (July 1) – Demonstration of workers and soldiers takes place in Petrograd under Bolshevik slogans: "Down with the ministers-capitalists", "Long live the control of workers over production!".

JULY 3 (JULY 16) – Armed demonstration of workers and soldiers in Petrograd under the slogan of "All Power to the Soviets".

JULY 26 (AUGUST 8) – The opening of the VI Congress of RSDRP[B]

which led the party for armed revolution.

AUGUST 12 (AUGUST 25) – Central Committee of RSDRP[B] published the Declaration of the VI Congress of workers and soldiers and peasants urging them and calling upon them to prepare for the final battle with the bourgeoisie.

AUGUST 28 (SEPTEMBER 10) – A Bureau of the Soldiers Fraction of Bolsheviks formed in Petrograd's armed workers militia.

AUGUST 30 (SEPTEMBER 12) – Liquidation of the counter-revolutionary mutiny of General Kornilov.

SEPTEMBER 2 (SEPTEMBER 15) – In Kronshtad, there was organized the Red Guards.

SEPTEMBER 5 (SEPTEMBER 18) – The decision of the Moscow Soviet of workers and soldiers deputies to organize the Red Guards.

SEPTEMBER 6 (SEPTEMBER 19) – Petrograd Soviet adopts the resolution regarding organizing State Power.

SEPTEMBER 12-14 (SEPTEMBER 25-27) – Letter of V.I. Lenin to the Central Committee of RCP[B]: "Bolsheviks must take power", "Marxism and Revolution".

OCTOBER 2 (OCTOBER 15) – Petrograd Soviet adopts the resolution about the absolute necessity to take power by the Soviets.

OCTOBER 7 (OCTOBER 20) – Lenin illegally comes from Finland to Petrograd.

OCTOBER 9 (OCTOBER 22) – Workers of the Obukhovskiy enterprise (Petrograd) at their meeting raise the demands of overthrowing the bourgeois government and institute Soviet Power.

OCTOBER 10 (OCTOBER 23) – Historical meeting of the Central Committee of Russian Communist Party [B] with V.I. Lenin presiding. At this meeting, the resolution on the armed uprising was adopted.

OCTOBER 12 (OCTOBER 25) – On the recommendation of the CC RCP[B] in cooperation with the Petrograd Soviet, there was established a Soldiers' Revolutionary Committee.

OCTOBER 16 (OCTOBER 29) – The enlarged meeting of the CC RCP[B] with V.I. Lenin presiding. At this meeting, there was elected a Party Centre which was to head the revolution under the leadership of J.V. Stalin.

OCTOBER 24 (NOVEMBER 6) – During the night, there came into Smolny V.I. Lenin and took into his hands the leadership of the armed uprising.

OCTOBER 24 (NOVEMBER 6) – The armed detachments of the Red Guards and detachments of the soldiers that came over to the workers' side seized all the bridges, railway stations, post offices, telegraph offices and city administrative buildings.

OCTOBER 25-26 (NOVEMBER 7-8) – During the night, the Red Guards, soldiers, sailors took the Winter Palace by assault. The Temporary government was arrested. The insurrection in Petrograd was successful, the revolution was victorious.

OCTOBER 26 (NOVEMBER 8) – During the night, the II Congress of Soviets adopted the first Decrees about Peace and Land. There was formed the first ever in the world and history a workers-peasants government – and the Soviet of Peoples' Commissars headed by V.I. Lenin.

Dates are given in present and old calendar. □

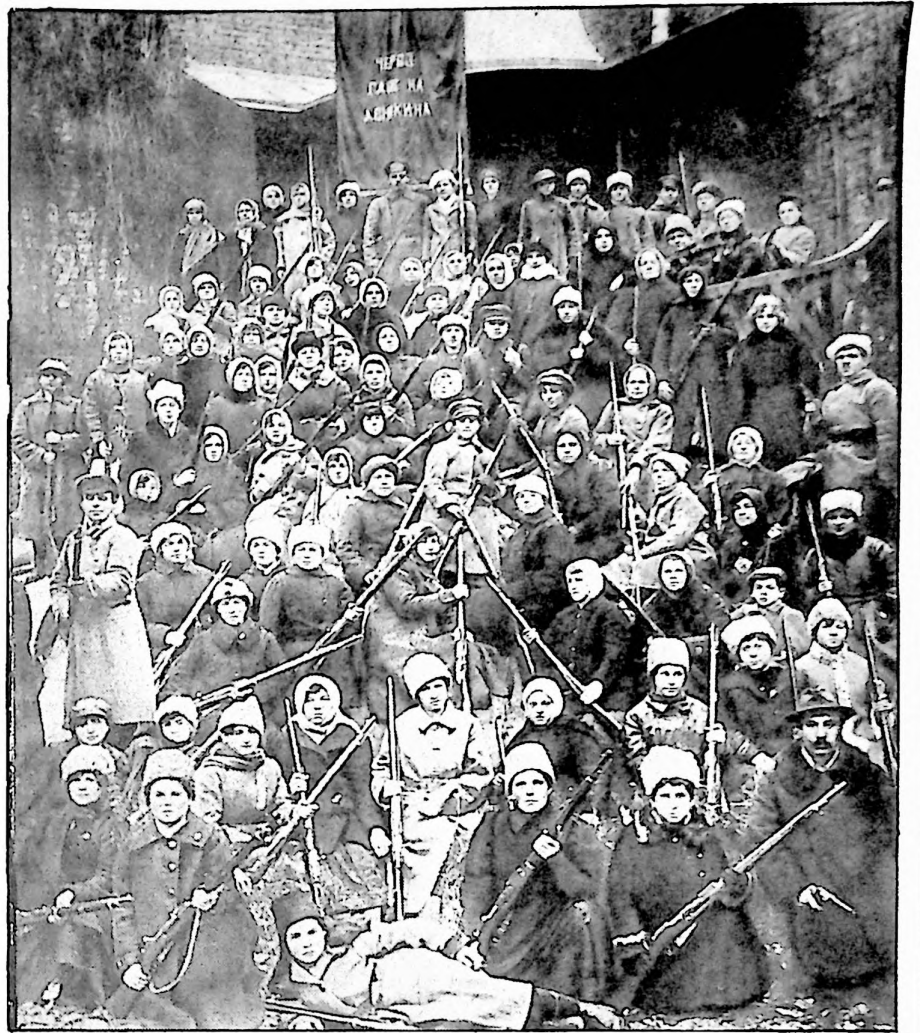
Socialism. Everybody was to participate, everybody was to share the results.

We now know of course that while many major advances toward those ends were made in the USSR, the Revolutionary aims ground to a painful halt in 1991. That year, CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev outlawed his own Communist Party, handed over control to the unspeakable buffoon of history, Boris Yeltsin, and the western bankers and military. In turn, they dissolved the USSR, scattered the Union Republics into fifteen separate countries and handed over economic and political control to most backward counter-revolutionary forces. Each of these in turn became the darlings of Western Imperial and monopoly designs. For Yeltsin, murderer of his own people in Moscow by the thousands, and the artillery shelling of the Supreme Soviets in 1993, there was a particularly "loving embrace" from the President of the U.S.A.

Deadly phalanxes of seventy years of counter-revolution were waged externally by the relentless monopoly forces who dreamed and slavered at the thought of restoring the Socialist Sixth of the world's territory and the deep well of massive resources to their control for super-exploitation ... just as in the colonies.

Internally, subversion, assassinations, sabotage and relentless "Big Lie" ideological assaults were based on remnants of the Czarist heritage and the emigre colonies of outlawed nobility and displaced capitalists. In latter years, the role of the C.I.A. and other foreign intelligence forces intensified.

It is not possible here to document the various aspects of this horrendous, ongoing process, which continued over the entire 74 year life of the Socialist Revolution



The heroic defenders in the struggles against foreign intervention the likes of Dennikin.

and the Soviet Union. I believe it is correct to say that history has no parallel of hostility and aggression and that no other country in the world could have existed in such an onslaught. Throughout this time, the Soviet people proudly defended, at immeasurable cost, their homeland and at the same time, raised it to the level of a world power which no other country could ignore .. or intimidate.

Up to 50 million dead citizens, areas of their country and productive capacity devastated in the holocaust of war, invasion, and "scorched earth" ... (It was an area that would equal the eastern U.S. from the Atlantic seaboard to a line running south from Chicago to the Mexican border) ... all in smouldering ruins.

In 1929, Stalin at the head of the Soviet Government had warned his people that they had ten years in which to modernize the country and lift it from the semi-feudal backwardness that was the heritage of Czarism. "Should we fail, we will be destroyed", he warned. Forced pace development in all areas of life ensued. The destruction Stalin had warned of was then brought by the invading German Nazi forces, but despite the heaviest sacrifices known in history, in 1945, Socialism had been defended. Victory was proclaimed and a return to the original aims and purposes of the Proletarian Revolution appeared on the horizon.

As we know, such was not to be, as the Western Imperial Allies

instituted forty five years of political warfare against the Soviets and called it the "Cold War". Again, the Soviets confronted unrelenting hostility and external threats and internal subversion.

In a whole epoch of historical development, even within the United Nations, the Soviets were thrust on the defensive, particularly under the twin threats of the U.S. monopoly of nuclear weapons until 1949, and the fashioning of the NATO military Alliance to confront them in Europe.

It was during this period in my estimation that the dry rot and viruses that lead inexorably to the Gorbachev-Yeltsin and CPSU betrayal of the Proletarian Revolution developed. The very essence of Marxism-Leninism was thrust aside and the leadership of the Communist Party turned to pragmatism. Slowly at first, all the while mouthing diminishing support to the Marxist concept of the working class as both the "grave-diggers" of capitalism and the architects and builders of the new Socialist, and ultimately, the revolution was betrayed. Administrative and bureaucratic leadership led to the alienation of the working class. Instead of the Leninist concept of the Communist Party being the theoretical and practical guide to the working class, the working class became a force to be administered by the Communist Party and its growing bureaucracy, and increasingly corrupted leadership. Pragmatism and corruption supplanted Marxism-Leninism, leading to disaster. But then, the journalists and opportunistic elements of the intelligentsia were called upon to cast blame on Marxism-Leninism for the debacle.

The rebuilding and refurbishing of a Marxist-Leninist leadership is a process of rejuvenation that cannot be resolved without returning to the

Marxist concept of working people in democratic alliances as the new masters of the future and the destiny of our people and world. That stands, in my opinion, as the central task of Communists everywhere. It can be argued that the viruses of destruction that penetrated the CPSU likewise spread far and wide in the world Communist movement. I can personally recall during the vicious disruptive activities within the Canadian Communist Party, the defecting editor of the Canadian Tribune attacking Marxism-Leninism as a "thing of the past, defunct and bankrupt". Of course, a drop of his sweat was so rare it might have provided a cure for cancer and his knowledge of the working class



was simply a big fat zero. But his hostility to that class was more than evident.

Space and time do not permit more than a cursory statement regarding the future and what the destruction of the content and substance of the October Proletarian Revolution means for us today.

I must observe that the emergence of Imperialism in a unipolar world headed by the U.S.A., German and Japanese monopolists carries both immense dangers and at

the same time is the incubation period of new, unheralded and largely as yet unmapped futures of class conflict, political upheaval, the probable growth of new and old forms of Fascist monopoly dictatorship. The future looms ominously, but inevitably carries promise massive, democratic human advances, fundamental in character.

The financial pages tell us of the mad spread of investment of financial capital into every nook and cranny of the world. At the same time, more sober warnings are appearing more and more frequently that in fact, monopoly finance capital has "over-invested" and before us is an increasing glut of classic over-production. For example, "The Economist", hardly a harbinger of radicalism, warns that we will have a world productive capacity in a year or so of 80 million automotive units but there is a market for only 60 million of these. "Auto Industry Heads For Crash", says "The Economist". The Dean of the Yale School of Management and a former Undersecretary of Commerce in the U.S. Government tells us that coming onstream are 1 1/2 billion new workers "who will work for \$5 or \$10 a day". He predicts enormous downward pressure on current western wage levels since all of these new workers come from the under-developed world.

An enormous time clock of their own making is ticking inexorably against Imperial, monopoly capitalism. The working class of Canada, of the world, must begin preparation now for unheard of new tasks. The lessons of the Great October Proletarian Bolshevik Revolution must now be resurrected and put to work if we are to escape a new "Dark Ages". That is urgent right now. □

NEWS FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION



Dear Michael Lucas!

Dear Friends of Soviet People!

Please forgive me for not being able to find time to reply to your letters and to keep ongoing letters flowing between us. Your letters from June, July were received, but due to the workload as you well know, I am able to reply only now.

1. Regarding the International Seminar that was held in Brussels, Belgium: I personally asked Ludo Martens, why is it that among the participants of the Conference, there was no Michael Lucas. I did not get a clear answer at all. I can tell you only this – North America at this Brussels Seminar was not represented, and you must make certain that the contacts should be solidified and understanding of comrades that will come in the future, should be based on the policies of Northstar Compass. I am positive that Ludo Martens, head of the Belgium Party of Labour, is with you and Northstar Compass!

2. I will accept with gladness to participate at your forthcoming 5th Anniversary Conference of NSC in February, 1988 in Toronto. I await your official invitation. I feel that there is a possibility of finding a

sponsor for me, who will pay the airfare.

On my part, I am informing you that the Founding Congress of a Unified Party of Soviet Communists will take place in Moscow on November 1–2. I will do all in my power that you shall receive an invitation in the name of a member of Russian Duma, my dear Michael. I know that the Russian Embassy in Ottawa is refusing you a visa, because your name is in the "red Book" of enemies of Mr. Alexander Yakovlev.

The situation here is not easy. Northstar Compass is very correct in its analyses. From my side, I will do all that is possible that our contacts be solidified and that our thoughts would be as one.

We shall fight until victory.

– Yours,

Victor Anpilov

To: President and Editor
Michael Lucas
My dear friend Michael:

Today, I received your letter which, as it turned out, was being written by you on the same date as I was trying to send you the fax that you received by letter since your fax was not operating.

Regarding the analysis of Northstar Compass journal, I shall undertake to do this later on.

Your suggestion for us to organize the "Russia-Canada Friendship Society" as your partner – I support this venture wholeheartedly. We shall take steps to organize such a Society, how better to organize it, that the Society would live and work, as a working society, not only a debating gathering of people with compliments to fly both ways. The idea is absolutely excellent. We have to find dedicated, working people full of enthusiasm not only for a day or a month, but for a long time.

Regarding my coming to Canada – this shall be more evident in Russia after the events of the 80th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution. Today, the present regime is getting ready. There are numerous laws that are being formulated, ready for passage on the pretext of uncontrollable situation "in case of an outburst of uncontrollable situation of social-political and criminal character, manifesting itself in attempts to grab the state or attempt at seizure".

In the very near future in the Duma, there will be brought a law proposed – act about as if it was in war time – military control of society. As you see, the regime is ready for the eventual crisis situation in the country during Autumn. The promised payment of back pay to millions of workers was not realized, regardless of the promises by Yeltsin and Mentsov. All their gibberish – "we shall pay off the debts" – was nothing but empty air, which we knew would happen.

Dear Michael, thank you for the letters and the articles being published in our extremely necessary and valuable journal. I wish you success in your work in the future.

Good health to all of your colleagues.

– With Communist Greetings,
Nina Andreeva

From:
Moscow, RUSSIA

Dear Comrades:

I congratulate you and all editorial board of NSC on the noteworthy event – the 5th Anniversary of Northstar Compass. I wish you success in your work, happiness, health. I have hope that your journal will remain the public voice of the Canadian Friends of Soviet People, and it will remain the bright example of internationalism

and ideological firmness.

I am sending you as a present a Guide to "The Moscow Kremlin". I believe that the Red Banner will flutter above the Kremlin again and that Soviet People will be glad to meet their true friends in our beautiful capital.

- With Comradely Greetings,
S.G. Saveliyev
Editor of "Communist Herald"

Materials contained in your "Communist Herald" are an inspiration to our readers. We thank you for your gift and we agree that the Red Banner will fly again proudly from Moscow Kremlin! □



5TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE NORTHSTAR COMPASS

February 20-21-22/98
Toronto, Canada

*You are invited to attend.
Guests from
many countries
will be there!*

SPECIAL FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS

APEC AND ANTI-IMPERIALISM IN CANADA

**Philippine Solidarity Group
- Toronto**

This November, Canada will host the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), a gigantic trade bloc of 18 economies. It includes the three

members of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): the U.S., Canada and Mexico, plus the next country slated for NAFTA membership: Chile; five East Asian economies: Japan, S. Korea and the three Chinas (China, Hong Kong and Taiwan); the six countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN): the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei; and three from Australasia: Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Altogether, APEC already covers 40% of the world's population, half the world's GNP, and around 72% of the world's trade. A few more countries have expressed keen interest in joining APEC. Some of these are Russia, India and Vietnam. There is currently a moratorium on new members through until at least 1998.

HISTORY OF APEC

APEC was founded on Australia's initiative in 1989 as a low key ministerial forum to discuss Asia-Pacific economic issues at a time when her products were being pushed out of Europe due to the increasing integration of the European Union (EU) and she was desperate to ensure access to the lucrative markets of the ASEAN. Interestingly enough, the original twelve members included the six ASEAN neo-colonies that everyone drooled over and six "non-ASEAN" Pacific countries: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, S. Korea, Canada and the US; five of whom were imperialist countries and one, a very loyal client state of Japan and the US who also is starting to export some capital to the ASEAN countries.

The founding Canberra ministerial meeting was followed by three other ministerial meetings: Singapore (1990); Seoul, S. Korea (1991); and Bangkok, Thailand (1992).

APEC's rather low key status changed in 1993 when the US assumed the chair of APEC and turned it into a trade bloc at the first leaders' summit in Seattle. The US move countered moves by Japan via Malaysia to create an Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) which would have excluded the US. By then, Japan had had vast investments in Asia as a result of a decade of aggressive capital export and was slowly pushing out the US from the region. The AFTA would have consolidated Japan's predominance in the lucrative markets of East Asia.

At the second leaders' summit in Bogor, Indonesia, the years 2010 and 2020 were set as the deadline for full implementation of liberalization by APECs industrialized and less developed member countries respectively.

In 1995, the third leaders' summit was held in Osaka, Japan. This summit stated the three goals of APEC: trade and investment liberalization, their facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation. The summit also produced the Osaka Action Agenda which provided the targets on many areas for the implementation of APEC's goals. The last thing that the summit did was to lay down APEC's basic principles.

Last November, the fourth leaders' summit was held in Subic, the Philippines. All 18 members presented individual action plans which were consolidated into a Manila Action Plan Agenda (MAPA). Implementation of MAPA began in January 1997. APEC finally became operational.

This November, the fifth leaders' summit will be held in Vancouver. It will, among other things, follow up the implementation of and "improve" MAPA and the individual action plans.

WHY APEC?

APEC and the different trade blocs are products of the global crisis of over-production raging since the 1960s. With growth and profit rates at historically low levels and recessions coming more frequently and devastatingly, the imperialist powers have been scrambling to restructure the world further in their image. They have been conniving to open up the economies of the Third World even more to their plunder. They have also been maneuvering to close their own economies to their competitors while prying open their competitors' economies to themselves. At the same time, in their own economies they have been pushing frightful deregulation, cut backs, privatizations and all sorts of schemes to restrict the ability of the working class and people to fight back. These have been attempts to get out of the crisis of their own making.

APEC though has a special character and function of its own.

In the first place, it is not based on a trade treaty that has to go through legislative processes for approval. It is therefore not subject to much public scrutiny. Instead, it is based on a series of "action plans" put forward by respective governments. They are lists of things that each government "commits" to accomplish their own action plan. APEC is therefore largely left to executive discretion and not one APEC country is lacking this. As a result, APEC operates largely in the background calling no attention to itself. The APEC drive changes do not therefore appear to the public as interconnected and agenda driven. This structural character of APEC is a deliberate choice by capital on the basis of lessons drawn from the anti-NAFTA struggle.

Second, because APEC is based on "action plans", it has the

appearance of having a voluntary character. This is far from the truth however. The "voluntary" character of the "action plans" allow for pressure to be placed on countries slow in undertaking liberalization, privatization and deregulation. Under the instigation of the big imperialist powers and craving their approval, certain of the neocolonial regimes like that of the Philippines are more than enthusiastic in showing their acceptance of neo-liberal ideology. A rush for liberalization, privatization and deregulation is therefore created. In fact, though 2010 is the target date set for full implementation in the advanced industrialized members of APEC, there has been a push by the US to accomplish it by 2005.

Last, agreements made in APEC are always brought to the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a bloc vote to then pressure the rest of the world to follow suit. In fact, APEC is conceived of as a device to prepare for a new round of negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

To sum up, APEC is conceived of as and built to be a ratcheting device for the process of imperialist restructuring of the world economy. Other free trade blocs set up the increasing minimum of free trade acceptable to big capital. APEC drives it upward beyond these minimums.

APEC MEANS WAR!

APEC, as an imperialist tool to reorganize the world economy, has political implications the world over as well. The US and Japan view it as the foundation of "peace" in the Asia-Pacific region. In their joint declarations on security last year, acknowledgement of APEC's role in the newly redefined "US-Japan Security Agreement" was made.

Just last year, the US and Japan redefined the "US-Japan Mutual Security Agreement". Where formerly Japan's security concerns were limited to Japanese territory and places like Taiwan and S. Korea, it has now been extended to places "near" Japan, which seems to include the Middle East judging from the fact that Japanese troops have been sent to the Golan Heights in Syria. Furthermore, the US and Japan now have a more integrated strategic planning for their armed forces and joint weapons research. In essence, the US has allowed Japan a bigger imperial presence in the Asia-Pacific, a confirmation of its new place in the economies of the region, and access to US high technology at the expense of maintaining the subordination of Japanese imperialism to US imperialism, increasing the presence of US troops on Japanese soil and subsidizing US imperialism.

This is all very ominous. With APEC's maturation, there has been a rise in S. Korean bellicosity and in the number of provocations against N. Korea. At the same time, N. Korea is facing unprecedented difficulties after years of devastating natural calamities. "Near Japan" now includes N. Korea. Can another imperialist war against N. Korea be in the making?

ANTI-IMPERIALISM

How then to fight APEC?

From what has already been said, it is easy to see why effective popular intervention in these processes via sidebar agreements or clauses just cannot happen. As an example, NAFTA has sidebar agreements. They have been a complete failure. They will fail everywhere else also, especially in APEC. The reason for their inutility lies in the fact that these trade blocs are fundamentally based on

investment facilitation codes in an era of imperialist crisis. They have been set up precisely to overcome the sticking points in the accumulation process of capital represented by labour and other standards. Sidebar agreements or clauses apply therefore only if they do not contradict the purpose of these codes. And since they always contradict them, they never apply. Former Canadian Trade Minister Art Eggleton was only being uncharacteristically honest when he told anti-APEC protesters this summer in Montreal Canada at an APEC Trade Ministers' meeting that they take their human rights concerns elsewhere as APEC was a trade bloc. Sidebar agreements and clauses are therefore cruel deceptions that can only sidetrack the working class and people from real effective struggle. Unfortunately, this illusion is still being propagated and dominant in the Canadian movement.

The Philippine mass movement showed the way last year in how to fight against APEC. For the first time ever, there were country-wide mass protests and resistance to an APEC leaders' summit. Previous to that summit, "protests" at other summits were left to a small circle of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attending "alternative" conferences. Documents were produced but no real struggles were undertaken. In the Philippines, progressive forces organized various international anti-imperialist conferences scoring APEC - the main one being the "People's Conference Against Imperialist Globalization" - and a multitude of protests and other mass actions mobilizing millions around the country.

Some members of the international press were quite astonished at the political sophistication of the Filipino

workers and people. But hasn't the Philippines been undergoing a revolutionary process led by its working class for the last 20 years in a situation of intensifying crisis of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal order? These factors were the premises of the unprecedented mass struggles in the Philippines against APEC, their effects and continued development.

The consciousness and organization of millions of Filipinos were raised by these actions and is developing further in new mass campaigns since the anti-APEC mass campaign. Is it therefore coincidental that all the signs of some form of martial law are now in the air in the Philippines as a desperate and crumbling semi-colonial and semi-feudal order is futilely attempting to preserve itself even while under the heavy blows of a mass movement steered by the experiences of martial law, total war and "low intensity conflict"? Is it also surprising that it is starting to take a form quite different from old style martial law? Of one with a "democratic" face? Is it also so surprising that this anti-APEC and anti-imperialist campaign of the Philippine mass movement has had such an influence around the world? Is this not a mass movement that has undergone and is undergoing a profound great rectification movement touching the lives of millions? A movement that is schooling millions in proletarian struggle?

Meanwhile, the conditions in Canada have not been this good for anti-imperialist solidarity in a long time. The Canadian class struggle is not as developed as the one in the Philippines but it is showing a positive intensification as the Canadian working class is finally showing signs of shaking its long lethargy in the face of capitalist

offensive. Finally, after years of defeats, retreats and compromises, it is showing some fighting spirit worthy of its class.

Canadians and Filipino Canadians who went to the Philippines to attend these anti-imperialist conferences and actions last year have been greatly inspired to take an open anti-imperialist stand and to contribute to the process of rallying and strengthening anti-imperialist forces in Canada. They have organized various conferences, protests and discussions raising the consciousness of many Canadian workers and people. The actions of those inspired by the Philippine mass movement will do more than their share in contributing to the struggles of the Canadian workers and people against APEC, free trade and imperialism. They have shown that it does not take many to make an impact in the class struggle. All that it takes is the correct line, persistent hard work and devotion to the cause of the working class. In time, the few will become many.

The highpoint of this campaign against APEC in Canada this year is the "People's Conference Against Imperialist Globalization - Continuing the Resistance!" and the "International Youth and Student Caucus" both in Vancouver on November 21 to 25 and 27 to 28 respectively. They continue what happened in the Philippines in the more modest conditions of Canada. Nevertheless, they provide the opportunity for conscious anti-imperialist forces to rally together. That can only be a big boost in building even firmer and broader anti-imperialist unity.


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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Below, we publish the news about the growth of fascist movement in Germany. This article is from our comrades of the BULLETIN - organ of the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany.

We send our comradely greetings to them and wish them success in their struggles.

The Syrian Ahmed Bachir stabbed to death by Nazis in Leipzig - the Greek Vassilis "shot while attempting to escape" by the police, from behind and in handcuffs after having been arrested - three people from Turkey murdered by incendiary attack in Karlsruhe!



Bulletin 4/96
Information for revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist forces of all countries

Excerpt and synopsis from the publications by "Gruppe der Sozialisten" 1996 on the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany November - December 1996

Appears quarterly in Turkish, French, ENGLISH, Spanish and Italian Price: DM 0.50.

In November, the following leaflet appeared:

The Syrian Ahmed Bachir stabbed to death by Nazis in Leipzig - the Greek Vassilis shot while attempting to escape" by the police, from behind and in handcuffs after having been arrested - three people from Turkey murdered by incendiary attack in Karlsruhe!

Nazis and Police - Murder and Bloodshed!

The situation in Germany 1996 is getting worse for all people threatened by racist-nationalist terror nearly day by day. Murder and manslaughter are registered by the so-called 'public' only very marginally. The reason for this is, among other things, a more and more perfect system that nips opposition and demonstrations already in the bud by media manipulation. While the deportation terror of the state 'shunts' up to 3,000 people out of deportation prisons and deportation internment every month, often into

NAZIS AND POLICE - MURDER AND BLOODSHED!

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countries where torture and murder by the state are the order of the day, the bourgeois media have treated the people from other countries shot to death by the German police, those murdered by Nazis, the bodies burnt by incendiary attacks in minuscule news items - if they have reported on them at all.

The murderous grimace of this state and its Nazi gangs, in their individual actions as well as their joint work under the cover of the bourgeois media, must be unmasked and fought by autonomous investigations, autonomous research and autonomous actions."

DRIFT TOWARDS FASCISM ON THE PART OF THE STATE AND NAZI PARTIES / NAZI GANGS

"The drift towards fascism, hate tunes and oppressive practice pursued in much increased measure by the state, also and especially against political refugees and other people of the most various nationality living and working in this country, the public policy of denial and cover-up of Nazi terror encourage the Nazis and their organizations to daily and multiplied acts of ever stronger terror, against 'non-Germans', against people of different colour, against handicapped people and homeless persons, against all people not fitting into their German-Nazi world picture, to pogroms like in Hoyerswerda and Rostock, to murderous crimes like in Mölln, Solingen, Lubeck and now in Leipzig. The complicity of the German state apparatus with the Nazi arsonists is made clear, for example, by the pogrom in Rostock 1991 carried out in fact under police protection and by the cover-up of the Nazi massacre in Lubeck 1996 ...

The Nazi gangs and the Nazi parties must not, under any circumstances, be viewed separately or independently of this state

apparatus. In reality, what we have here is a supplementary and supporting measure of German imperialism within the whole system of its reactionary measures. The Nazi parties serve in this also as 'pace-makers', as a 'trial balloon', testing how much the population and the working class have already grown accustomed to the more open Nazi-Fascist propaganda and terror.

The Nazi-Fascist shock troops are promoted, supported and protected by the German state apparatus; they are even directly and indirectly used against anti-Fascist and revolutionary forces in calculated manner. It is precisely by the unpredictability of their actions that the Nazi gangs succeed in the dissemination of an atmosphere of daily terror.

The struggle against the Nazi gangs and their actions, against the Nazi parties and their hate propaganda is indispensable and has become still more urgent today. Without yielding even one millimetre in the struggle against the Nazis, it has, nevertheless, to be stated in the clearest terms that increasing fascistization, a mounting drift towards fascism is emanating mainly from the state of the German imperialists, that the main source of Nazi-Fascist ideology and openly terrorist action is the capitalist social system in Germany as a whole. This system has to be smashed in its foundations, from top to bottom if one wants to really destroy the Nazi gangs and to really eliminate the danger of a renewed switch from the present parliamentary republic to a Nazi-Fascist form of government.

Eradication of Nazi-Fascism together with its roots means annihilation of the imperialist system, of capitalism!

The struggle for the defence of democratic rights against the drive towards Fascism on the part of the

state and against the Nazi gangs / parties must be integrated into and subordinated to the struggle for the preparation of the socialist revolution for the smashing of this state apparatus and for the overthrow of this social order.

The important thing is to wage the struggle against the Nazi gangs / Nazi parties and against the drift towards Fascism on the part of the state together with all those afflicted by nationalism, racism and Nazi terror in a militant and internationalist manner!" □

"THE PEOPLE'S STAR"

Japan

This newspaper is the organ of the Communist Party of Japan (Left) and it is its International Bulletin with which Northstar Compass has friendly exchanges of publications and articles. Below, we print in a condensed form the documents that were discussed at their 12th Plenum of the Central Committee.



• Now that the danger of another imperialist war is approaching, it is extremely important for the Party and Japanese working class to develop the movement with a broad mass base for banning atomic and hydrogen bombs, first here in Japan, as the only nuclear victim country, in order to advance this movement on a world scale.

• The Party should go further in the propaganda activities in Hiroshima, publicize more deeply the actual movement of hibakusha (atomic bomb sufferers) among the young generation that is growing

up. The young people must be even more fully involved in this movement.

• We have to overcome grave deviation in guiding the ban-the-bomb movement. We somehow have departed from the 1950 traditions and the Peace Rally we had, and we must again reform the untied front with the working class.

• Our slogan must be "All struggles are labour movements" and we must improve our party building in industries and enterprises. Our party must guide the labour movement step by step to gain our objectives.

• The youth have increased their activities in the struggles for the abrogation of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and removal of U.S. bases.

• The Japanese women are of low social status compared with other countries. We have unemployed women labour force of over 10 million. Women receive 51% of the wages the men receive. This is double exploitation by Japanese and U.S. imperialists under security system.

• The cultural and education movement since the policy of the government is of "streamlining the school". Our culture is being dominated by U.S. culture to such an extent that it brought corrupt, decadent manners and customs to our young generation. Ideological attacks based on obscurantist policy are intentionally stepped up against the working people.

• The urgency and terrible danger to our agriculture cannot be underestimated, due to the Food Control System mergers, over-production, sharp decline in rice prices and large import of farming stock and farm products. This is ruining Japanese agriculture. Most of the main foods are under control of foreign powers.

• We must learn more fully the

theoretical questions and follow the program. We must overcome in some places the lack of guidance. We must build the party even stronger, ideologically and organizationally. We should all be more cognisant and demand that democratic centralism is our party's organizational principle.

• Our party's central newspaper organ must be even more utilized because today, class contradictions are sharpening, opinions of the masses are undergoing sharp changes. We must triple our propaganda, that is why our newspaper "Jinmin No Hoshi" must be in the vanguard! □

From: NORWAY

Saluting the 80th Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, we have prepared this article, which places on a deserved plane the role played by one of its clearest and firmest leaders, Comrade Stalin.

The Campaign of Hatred Led by the Bourgeoisie Gives Reasons to Defend the Life and Work of

J.V. STALIN

It is often said (sometimes in jest, other times, as a joke), that the question of Stalin is the dividing line between true and false communists. When one puts the question in a superficial form of "for or against



Stalin", it often does not lead to a very deep political discussion.

But it is very important for communists to understand the reason why the legacy of Stalin continues to be one of the touchstones of Marxism-Leninism. Nowhere is the hatred of the bourgeoisie towards socialism clearer than in its attack on Stalin and "Stalinism". After the death of Lenin, it was Stalin who directed the struggle against the mistaken and dangerous ideas of Trotsky, whose principal idea was to assure control of the workers by imposing military discipline in the trade unions and placing them under state control. On the contrary, Lenin and Stalin fought for the method of convincing by means of example.

Stalin directed the construction of socialism and the enormous advances of the USSR in the 1930's. At the same time, he was at the head of the struggle against growing fascism and Nazism in Europe at that time. It was Stalin's task to prepare the Soviet people for a new and brutal war of the imperialist invaders against the young USSR. After the Trotskyites and other elements opposed to popular power were defeated, the Soviet Union became even stronger. The unity of the people was consolidated and the contradictions between the different nationalities were less than they had been in the times of the tsar, and that they would become after the revisionists seized power after the death of Stalin.

The new constitution of 1936 was a proud expression of the socialist Soviet Union which, several years later, was able to resist the attack of German imperialism, defeating it and leading the Soviet Union to victory in the Great Patriotic War.

After the war, Stalin headed the struggle against the revisionist currents in the party and the state. But his death was the beginning

of a violent counter-revolutionary offensive on the part of the revisionists. Ten years after Stalin's death, the revisionists had left socialism in the Soviet Union in ruins. They led Soviet society to the most profound crisis, which has lasted to our time. Attacking socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat, the revisionists tried to weaken the tendency of a rebellion of a socialist character against the regime.

THE COMMUNISTS AND STALIN

The principal point of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to defend the construction of socialism, by means of repressing the forces of the bourgeoisie in society, who will never stop working for the re-establishment of capitalism. Those who condemn the dictatorship of the proletariat for taking up this task in a serious manner have no right to call themselves communists or adherents of socialism. For this reason, we Marxist-Leninists defend the work of Stalin. Although socialism in Russia is defeated, there still remain the memories of the teachings of Stalin, as the bourgeoisie knows, they know that the revolutionary line and the construction of socialism in the USSR, as was done under the leadership of Stalin, is the most dangerous threat to their own rule and existence as a class, Joseph Stalin showed the way and the means to reinforce the dictatorship of the proletariat and to construct socialism to a higher level.

For all this, we the communists of today salute the memory of Stalin.

— From Norway

Alfredo Guzman

A GRIM PROGNOSIS

Health Crisis Could Threaten the Entire Russian Society

*Reprinted in condense form from New York Times.
Written by Michael Specter*

There are few more shocking trips one can take in Russia than to the general wards of a major hospital. Despite the well-publicized problems of the Russian health-care system, it is not the hospitals themselves, or their staffs, that give alarm: It is almost always the age of the patients and their condition.

"Lung disease, heart attack, cancer, alcohol poisoning, high blood pressure." Tanya Rodinova, a nurse at Moscow's Hospital No. 4, reeled off the afflictions of five men, none of them yet 50. "The usual stuff. They are all going to die."

It may sound dismissive, but it's certainly true. Russian men are dying in middle age at a rate unparalleled in modern history: resulting from the enormous stress of rapid economic change and social dislocation since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Combine the astonishing drop in life expectancy for Russian men over the past decade with one of the lowest birth rates on Earth and there is almost no current demographic fact about Russia that would fail to shock.

DISTURBING STATISTICS

Per capita alcohol consumption is the highest in the world, nearly double the danger level drawn by the World Health Organization; a wider gap has developed in life expectancy between men (59) and women (73) than in any other country; the mortality rate of 15.1 deaths per 1,000 people puts Russia ahead of only Afghanistan and Cambodia among the countries of Europe, Asia and America (the rate for the United States is 8.8); the death rate among working-age Russians today is higher than a century ago.

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NORTHSTAR COMPASS!**

"The current death rates present the clearest possible threat to the national security of Russia", a special report to President Boris Yeltsin recently concluded.

Yet, the health crisis has received little top-level attention and almost no money. The government spends less than 2.6 percent of the gross national product on health care, far below the levels of other industrial nations. It has been nationalist politicians and health-care advocates who have led the debate on the mortality issue, casting it as "genocide" for the Russian people.

The mortality rate for Russian men age 40 to 49 was 16.3 per 1,000 in 1995, 77 percent higher than in 1990, when it was 9.2.

Even the good news is hard to take: Life expectancy for men might have risen slightly in 1996 from the previous year simply because the most vulnerable young people have already died. The raw number of sick children, appallingly high by any standard, appears lower this year only because so few children have been born over the past several years.

Demographers carried out the nation's first major census and projected that by this time the population should be 400 million. Instead, it is 147.5 million, and the most recent report to Yeltsin suggests that if new health and education initiatives aren't adopted soon, the population of Russia will decrease by as much as 30 million in the next 50 years.

NO RELIEF IN SIGHT

The implications of such change are stark. Of the 3.5 million people under age 60 who died in Russia over the past five years – a figure which parallels in modern history only during vast famines or prolonged wars – most have been working-age people, who are desperately needed to help lift Russia from its depression.

In 1940, working-age people accounted for 40 percent of the population and the elderly made up 8 percent. Now, the figure for the elderly is nearly 24 percent, while that for working-age people has been cut in half.

And there is no sign of relief. Despite a slight rise in life expectancy, the Russian population fell by 480,000 last year, the steepest decline in any year since World War II, according to state statistics.

COMMENT:

Yes, the story is grim and frightening, but instead of New York Times exposing the causes of this unbelievable tragedy, it completely ignores as to the role of CIA, Pentagon, Transnational Corporations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, the Imperialist agencies, plus the internal traitors that caused this genocide ... there is absolutely no other word to describe this planned travesty of justice and inhumanity!

During Soviet times, they had free health care, people lived longer, birth rate grew, the stress was not there. Of course, how can New York Times point this out – after all, it serves the masters who pay the dollars!

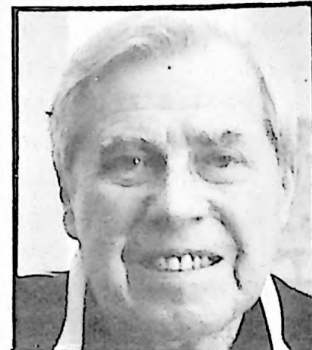
The wheel is turning and these traitors and their foreign directors shall have a rude awakening sooner than later!

Thanks to Mary K. Kral for this information. □

ATTENTION ALL STAMP COLLECTORS!

If your hobby or passion is stamp collecting, NSC has on hand hundreds of stamps from countries where our journal is read.

If you wish to get an assortment of stamps, we shall send them to you, of course, for a small donation towards our Dr. A.J. Thut's Sustaining Fund. □



PENSIONERS IN BRITAIN

Before the General Election, Tony Blair, then leader of the opposition, wrote: "Today's pensioners have lost £20 per week (£30 for married couples) through the Tory government breaking the earnings link with the basic pension. Labour has always done its duty by pensioners and the next Labour government ill do the same."

But, as the Pensioners' Association in my home town of Brighton and Hove pointed out in a recent *Letter to Members*, the Election Manifesto of the Labour Party "failed to make any pledges to today's ten million pensioners, who were totally ignored in the Queen's Speech and in the Budget".

It is true that the government has set up a Royal Commission to review the matter but the pensioners are asking: "What is there left to review?" It is feared that too much reliance will be placed on private provision for the pensioners of the future with little or nothing for the pensioners of today. After 18 years of Conservative government, the pensioners of Britain are now regarded as paupers in comparison with other European pensioners.

Jack Jones, Chairman of the National Pensioners' Convention, recently said: "There should be an across the board improvement for pensioners now." According to recent research carried out by Age Concern, a single pensioner needs

£125 per week for a modest but adequate income. The present pension, with slight variations, is worth about half that. If you are over 80, you get an extra 25 pence a week.

Unfortunately, the New Labour government has committed itself to continue the constraints imposed on public spending by the late Tory government. There are, however, or so it seems, no constraints on military expenditure. The government spends £20 billion a year on conventional arms and is to spend a further £15 billion on yet another European fighter plane, as well as £1.5 billion every year for the next 20 years on Trident submarines.

Cancellation of the building and equipping of the nuclear submarines would release much needed money to raise the living standards of pensioners many of whom, in the coming winter, will once more be faced with the choice of heating their homes or providing themselves with adequate meals. They will not be able to afford both.

The only other way of raising money for realistic pensions and other social needs is to tax the rich. For 18 years, under the Thatcher and Major governments, the wealth of Britain was gradually redistributed in favour of the wealthy. The higher income tax bands, which rose by stages to a maximum of 90 percent for millionaires and multi-millionaires were reduced to a single band of 40 percent. The shortfall was made up by increasing Value Added Tax, which is paid on purchases by even the poorest of the poor, and by cutting social services. As a result, over half of Britain's private wealth is now owned by only ten percent of the population, while the least well-off half of the population owns only six percent of it between them.

There is no way that the New

Labour government can raise the cash necessary to carry out its overall social programme without taxing those who have the money. The fat cats, some of them with incomes of over a million pounds a year, must be made to disgorge some of the wealth they have accumulated by exploiting working men and women, the sole source of all wealth.

There was a March in Brighton to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) on the 7th September, which was received by John Monks, its General Secretary, with little enthusiasm. It was the day after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, an event attended by some two million people and watched on television by another 30 million. If half the interest aroused could have been channelled into support for the demands of the pensioners of Britain, it could have made a significant difference to social conditions generally.

On the 19th September, thousands of pensioners from all over Britain converged on London to demand the restoration of the link between pension levels and average earnings, abolished in 1979 by Margaret Thatcher. They marched from the Thames Embankment to Trafalgar Square, where they were addressed by Jack Jones, and a number of trade union leaders including John Edmonds, who said: "The basic state pension must be paid to everybody without any means-testing", or it could be the beginning of the end for universal benefits.

As the New Worker remarked: "Some argue that this means paying state money to wealthy pensioners who do not need it, but when this happens it is recovered in taxes anyway." Myself, I have always argued that even the richest are entitled to the basic state pension. What they are not entitled to is the

wealth they have accumulated by exploiting working men and women.

The rally was well attended, but it was almost completely ignored by the capitalist media. In spite of this, however, dissent is growing among the deprived of Britain. Soon, it will not be possible to ignore it.

On the 30th September, Tony Blair addressed the Annual Conference of the Labour Party, also held in my home town. In his keynote speech, he spoke of "compassion with a hard edge" and "hard choices" for working people but not once did he so much as hint of "hard choices" for the wealthy. As he later explained in an interview, he had to keep his promise not to increase direct taxation for the rich because they needed the incentive of high incomes in order to improve their businesses in the interests of everyone. But will the pensioners, and others in the same predicament, be content to wait for the crumbs to fall from the rich men's tables? I think not. □

PAGES FROM OUR PAST

FASCISTS REBORN AS CROATIA'S FOUNDING FATHERS

By: Chris Hedges

SPLIT, Croatia — The old fascist marching songs were sung, a moment of silence was observed for all who died defending the fatherland, and the gathering was reminded that that day was the 57th anniversary of the founding of

Croatia's Nazi-allied wartime government. Then came the most chilling words of the afternoon.

"For Home!" shouted Anto Dapic, surrounded by bodyguards in black suits and crew cuts.

"Ready!" responded the crowd of 500 supporters, their arms rising in a stiff Nazi salute.

The call and response – the Croatian equivalent of "Sieg!" "Heil!" – was the wartime greeting used by supporters of the fascist Independent State of Croatia, which governed the country for most the Second World War and murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Croatian resistance fighters.

In the final days of campaigning before local elections, supporters of Croatia's Party of Rights used the chant as a rallying cry. But the shouts of the black-shirted young men – and the indifferent reactions of passersby – illustrated a broader aspect of this country's self-image.

President Franjo Tudjman and his Croatian Democratic Union party rose to popularity and power on the strength of its appeals to Croatians' national pride. Now, six years after the war that won Croatia its independence from Yugoslavia, Mr. Tudjman's party continues to cast the World War II fascist fighters as patriots and precursors of the modern Croatian state.

The Party of Rights took only 7 percent of the vote in the last election, but it is the closest ally of Mr. Tudjman, who is reported to be suffering from cancer and who has actively participated in the campaign.

Perhaps no other country has failed as openly as Croatia to come to terms with its fascist legacy. While the French celebrate a resistance movement that was often dwarfed by the widespread collaboration with the Vichy regime, and while the

Austrians often act as if the war never happened, the Croats have rehabilitated the Croatian fascist collaborators, known as the Ustashe.

The Ustashe was led by Ante Pavelic, the wartime dictator whose picture was plastered on walls in Split in preparation for the rally.

"A majority of the Croats oppose this rehabilitation", said Viktor Ivancic, editor in chief of the opposition weekly, "The Feral Tribune". "But they are afraid. These neo-fascist groups, protected by the state, are ready to employ violence against their critic".

Ustashe veterans receive larger pensions than old Partisan fighters, who waged a savage fight against the German and Croatian fascist armies. Former Ustashe soldiers are invited to state celebrations, like the annual army day, while Partisan fighters are ignored. And state authorities have stood by as pro-Ustashe groups have dismantled or destroyed 2,964 of 4,073 monuments

to those who died in the resistance struggle, according to veteran Partisan groups.

The identification with the quisling regime does not stop there. The Croatian currency is the kuna, the same instituted by the fascists. And the red and white checkerboard on the flag, taken from medieval Croatian emblems, previously adorned the Ustashe uniform. The President recently proposed bringing Mr. Pavelic's remains from Spain, where he died in exile in 1959, for burial in Croatia, a move rejected by Mr. Pavelic's family. And Vinko Nikolic, an 85 year-old former high-ranking Ustashe official who fled into exile after the war, was appointed by the President to the Croatian Parliament.

The transformation is all the more noticeable because of widespread participation by many Croats in the Partisan guerrilla movement led by Josip Broz Tito, himself a Croat.

"A huge number of Croats

Modern day Croatian fascists as they demonstrated in the city squares of Croatia. What do the veterans that are still alive all over the world think when they see these modern day fascists? What about the 50 million of people that died fighting fascism during the World War II? Obviously U.S.A. leadership encourages that "salute"!



fought the Nazis and the Ustashe", said 77 year-old Partisan veteran Milivoj Borosa, who defected in his bomber in 1942 from the Ustashe air force and dropped his payload on a German unit during his escape to the Soviet Union. "But today, those who should hold their heads in shame, are national heroes".

The Partisans, who included among their ranks the young Franjo Tudjman, committed what today is viewed as an unforgivable sin. They built a united, Communist Yugoslavia. And while the Ustashe state may have been a Nazi puppet, it had as its stated aim the establishment of an independent Croatia, although it was forced by the Axis to turn over large parts of Croatia, including much of the Dalmatian coast, to the Italians.

In the current situation, President Tudjman wants to reconcile the country's wartime divisions by arguing that the fascist and anti-fascist Croatians performed equally valuable service for their country. A general who became a historian after leaving the Yugoslav Army, Mr. Tudjman is among the leaders of a revisionist school of history that has sought to counter-balance the Communists' relentlessly dark view of the fascist years.

But many Croats, especially those who had relatives killed by the fascists, smolder with indignation over the glorification of a regime that massacred opponents with a ferocity that often shocked its Italian and German allies.

"You cannot reconcile victims and butchers", said Ognjen Kraus, the head of Zagreb's small Jewish community. "No one has the right to carry out a reconciliation in the name of those who vanished."

The climate has become so charged that those who oppose the rehabilitation of the Ustashe do not dare raise their voices. And there

have been several attacks carried out against members of the Social Democratic Party, the old Communist party, currently fielding candidates for the municipal elections. Many of the black-uniformed bodyguards at the rally here fought against the Serbs as members of The Croatian Liberation Forces, a brutal right-wing paramilitary unit formed by the party.

The Ustashe supporters also have a powerful ally in the Catholic Church in Croatia. The church, led during the war by Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac, was a prominent backer of the Ustashe regime. It forcibly converted tens of thousands of Orthodox Serbs and did not denounce the government's round-up and massacre of Jews and Serbs.



Old fascist marching songs were sung at a rally in Split.

During the war, Jews and Orthodox Serbs were subject to racial laws. The Serbs had to wear blue arm bands with the letter "P" for "Pravoslav" – Orthodox – before being deported to death camps like Jasenovac.

After the war, many priests, rather than condemn the brutality of the fascist regime, went on to set up an underground network known as "the rat line" to smuggle former Ustashe leaders, including Mr. Pavelic, to countries like Argentina.

The church, persecuted by the

Communists, has now re-emerged as one of the most powerful institutions in the country, in large part because religion is the only tangible difference separating Serbs, Muslims and Croats. Several priests have enthusiastically joined the rehabilitation campaign, portraying Mr. Pavelic as a pious leader who championed Christian values.

"Ante Pavelic was a good Catholic", said Father Luka Prcela who has held a memorial Mass for the former dictator in Split for the last four years. "He went to mass daily in his own chapel. Many of the crimes alleged to have been committed by his Government never happened. These stories were lies spread by the communists. He fought for a free Catholic Croatia. We have this state today because of him."

OUR COMMENT:

When a capitalist newspaper which is anti-socialist and anti-communist in its Editorial Policy (The New York Times) publishes this exposé on Croatia's march to fascism, then you can be certain that where there's smoke, there is fire! The fascists are marching – people beware!

Many thanks to George Gruenthal – our Editorial member from New York who sent this to us! □

COMMENTS:

– Milenko Popovich

My comments and outlook about Cardinal Stepinac, who was leader of the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia. He was arrested and jailed for 16 years for his part in welcoming with open arms the German fascists into Yugoslavia. During Second World War, he took part in the genocide against Jews, Gypsies, Serbian and Croatian communists.

I remember as a young boy in 1942 that a law was instituted by Croatian fascists that during Christmas, the Serbian Orthodox people were not allowed to bring hay into their houses to celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ

according to the Orthodox custom. In 1942, my town of Ledinci Srem, from 1,700 population, 700 men were taken to Croatian Concentration camps – not one man came out alive from this death camp. According to Croatian themselves, these Serbians were butchered by knives and axes. In 1943, my town was burnt to the ground by these Croatian Catholic-fascists, because Croats considered this town to be all Communist.

The unfortunate results of all this is that Serbian people paid an extremely heavy price in the Yugoslav dismemberment, because they allowed all the nations, large and small, to govern their destiny as opposed to a centralized country and its policy of united actions.

I must ask the question: Did those nationalities that comprised Yugoslavia – that got their freedom, that established their borders – did they deserve this noble prize that was given to them and which they, under external influence, managed to dismantle and thus dismember Yugoslavia as a country and socialism as a system?

I can name you well-known Croatian Catholic fascists from "Catholic Francisco Friars" – very strong on the territory of Bosnia. Priest, like Miloslav Filiopovic Majstorovic, Caplan in

"Monastery of Petricevac", during one night, killed a Serbian baby with a knife. He bragged to his Ustashi followers that he did this in the name of God and urged his followers to follow in his steps and he, as an ordained priest, shall ask the Lord to forgive them. After this urging, there were more than 1,000 Serbians (all this is historically documented in the existing archives – Editor) butchered. His actions impressed the Croatian government in Zagreb that they appointed him as Commandant of the concentration camp called Yasinovec.

In the few months, under his command, more than 20,000 Serbians were butchered in this camp.

After the Second World War at his trial, he admitted that he killed about 100 people with his knife. The following names were all members of Franciscan Monks: Branko Zutnik, Sarajevo; Peter Bitkovic, Zutnik Vlado Bilobrk from Metrovic; Amrozia Novak-Barazdin, Dr. Dralutin Kambet, Dr. Braninir Zupnic, Srecko Peric-Livno, Hercegovina. All these Franciscan Monks killed 5,600 Orthodox Serbian people August 10, 1941.

It is unfortunate that Tito, under pressure of the West and Vatican,

pardoned Alojzije Stepinac and let him out, which made him a Cardinal while still in jail, under pressure from the West.

Hatred roots started from the time when Prince Ferdinand was killed in Sarajevo by a Serbian student Gavrilo Princip, which was the reason given for the outbreak of the First World War.

PICTURES SPEAK LOUDER THAN A THOUSAND WORDS!

The photograph below from Yugoslav archives held by the War Crimes Commission shows a Croatian priest on December 21, 1941 in Varazhdin, Ambrozija Novak – telling the people the following: "You Serbs are condemned to death, but you can be saved if you convert from Orthodox to Catholic faith". Those that did not convert immediately were killed – over 300 Orthodox Serbs were executed in this district alone. Another priest Srepko Perip from monastery Gorica in Hercegovina told his Croatian parishioners: "Kill all Serbs that you can. When you'll return to Church, I shall forgive your sins." What followed is that on August 10, 1941, there were killed 5,600 Serbs in Livno and district. □



Catholic Church did not like the creation of capitalist Yugoslavia after First World War because the Monarch was Serbian Orthodox – the head of state was Monarch Karadzorzevic. That is why the King of Yugoslavia was killed in Marsell, France in 1934. One of the killers was Dr. Pavelic, future leader of the clerical-fascist state of Croatia.

How can a reader of Northstar Compass look at the national-religious problems on the territory of Yugoslavia? First of all, the feudal economic system always promoted hatred and manipulations between one nationality and another. Serbia as a nation was a victim in history. As everyone should know, we were under Turkish Empire for 500 years. Serbian Orthodox Church played an important role in keeping the spirit and culture alive while under Turkish domination. As people, Serbians are not religious compared to Muslims in Bosnia who are under the influence of Islam and playing the main role in the government, and also Croatia which is deeply influenced by the Catholic fascist ideology.

The facts are that Serbian Orthodox people, even before Lenin, were already influenced by Marxism, and today, there are still Communists in power in Serbia.

The Serbian people were the main force in resistance and struggle against fascism in Yugoslavia. According to my way of thinking the tragedy of Yugoslavia is the fact that 67% of the leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia were non-Serbs, including Marshal Tito who is half-Croatian, half-Slovene and Catholic.

The Party of Yugoslav Communists under Tito betrayed socialism and formed a revisionist policy which betrayed the Yugoslav people and thus, have sown the seeds of its destruction. □

All translations from Russian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Czech and Slovak by Michael Lucas.

From Newspaper:
"NEW YORK TIMES"
Aug. 9, 1997

ROMANIANS PROTEST FACTORY CLOSINGS

Ploiesti, Romania (Reuters) — Thousands of Romanians denouncing the Government and the International Monetary Fund poured into the streets across the country and blocked rail lines to protest plans to close money-losing factories in a new phase of market reform.

The mainly peaceful protests took place a day after Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea announced a list of 17 loss-making plants to be closed down quickly at the urging of the I.M.F. About 30,000 jobs are at stake.

Up to 5,000 shouting protesters faced riot policemen outside Town Hall in the oil centre of Ploiesti, 35 miles north of Bucharest, where two refineries are to be closed. The police said two officers suffered minor injuries when protesters tried to break into the building. No arrests were reported.

The storm clouds are gathering in
all former Socialist countries! □

YEAR AFTER THE 8TH CONGRESS

Year after the 8th Congress of the Syrian Communist Party was dedicated to follow the path chartered by our former leader, Bogdan Chaleds.

Our party had successes in its work due to his teachings and analysis. These successes would not have been possible, especially in two very important situations in Syria: Firstly, the adoption of the document on political work and the program of the party; Secondly, included in this program and document is the ideological and political line which

fits the present situation in the country, plus the election of a new leadership in whose hands the new line of the party is entrusted to be carried out.

This past year, life itself proved the correctness of the line the last Congress took and our intense struggle against American imperialism and present Zionism.

American imperialism and Zionist Israel are trying for even closer hegemony in his part of the world, fanning the fire of local conflicts in the present delicate situation.

Israel's plans, backed by USA, is to forcibly keep the conquered lands and Natanyahu is determined to push ahead with this dangerous provocation.



Michel Mounayer

The building of new settlements, the conflicts in Hebron and relations with Jordan are problems that are dangerous and must be solved in favour of the Palestinians.

Problems and expansion interests of Turkey are now tied in to the American-Israel hegemonic plans in order to try and defeat the Palestinians and also to keep this part of the world in constant boil, thus giving the imperialists an opportunity to fulfill their plans.

Americans are on the road to have their military in this region for other plans they have in the future, in case any outbreaks of liberating movements start to activate. Israel's Army is provoking Syria into a

military conflict, demanding unrealistic concessions and proposing unoperative plans that are meant to chip away at the sovereignty of the countries in this region.

Syria, knowing of these expansion and war-like plans of USA and Israel, is gaining sympathy of the neighbouring countries in its struggles against the expansion plans. Imperialist plans are to defeat Syria and have it wiped off the face of the earth, with only history to record that there was a country existing such as Syria.

The 8th Congress stated that the situation is dangerous and very delicate, but the party is very optimistic and appealed to all patriots, calling upon them to defend their Motherland. Congress stated that our cause is just and we shall prevail and achieve final victory in the coming battle.

All facts point to the fact that American imperialism and Israel Zionism are reaching a new height in their plans and they are finding themselves at the end of their road on which they travelled. The plans of the next war will be based on the arsenal of arms that they have accumulated. Their policy now will be to rob, devastate, murder and strengthen the occupation.

– Michel Mounayer

involving members of a locally-based Chechen mafia gang, was followed by a Czech government announcement that it intends to introduce tighter controls on the issue of visas to foreigners, especially those from the countries of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania.

The shoot-out, in which three gang members were wounded, took place in broad daylight, and was followed by a further incident on Sunday night (August 10) in a village just outside Prague, when members of Ukrainian and Tadjik gangs exchanged gunfire in a carpark. 37 shots were fired and four gangsters were wounded.

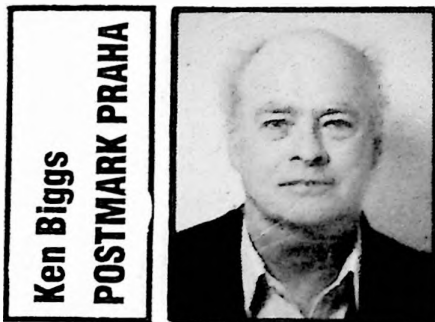
Responsibility for the activities of foreign mafia gangs on Czech soil was placed firmly on the shoulders of the government by Communist Party leader Miroslav Grebenicek. In a TV discussion on Sunday, he said that stricter visa regulations alone would not prevent recurrences of such incidents, which had to be related to the emergence under the post-1989 regime of a home-grown "political and economic mafia". In a reference to a now famous remark of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus that he found it impossible to distinguish between clean and dirty money, cockily made in the days before the capitalist "transformation" of the Czech economy went sour, Grebenicek said: "When somebody declares that dirty money does not stink, don't be surprised if others come sniffing around". His suggestion that the post-1989 regime had not been too fussy about the origin of some of the capital used in the privatization process will have struck a sympathetic chord among a Czech public increasingly disillusioned by the fast practices of the country's arrogant new bourgeoisie.

Grebenicek cited the scandal around the emigre Viktor Kozeny, a

young financier publicly praised by Klaus for his role in getting coupon privatization off the ground in the early 90s and a close associate of the post-1989 regime. Later, he had to flee the country after the police began investigating his business methods and took out Irish citizenship to put himself beyond the reach of the Czech police. Grebenicek said that this and other scandals showed that, in dealing with local and foreign mafias, there was also a need for "politics to put its house in order".

The Czech government's moves to tighten up visa and other regulations relating to foreigners in the Czech Republic have been on the table since last March, largely as a result of a concerted campaign spearheaded by Interior Minister Jan Ruml, the only pre-1989 "dissident" to retain a senior government post in the highly unstable and accident-prone right-wing coalition. Ruml's strategy has been to cover up the post-1989 regime's own complicity in political and economic corruption by pointing the finger at foreign east European mafias. His secret service has publicly alleged that there are links between the major Czech company Chemapol and a powerful Russian mafia group, and also that there was a conspiracy of "former Russian KGB agents" to influence the results of last year's general election. Ruml has also blamed the explosion of street crime in Prague since 1989 on foreign gangs. Unfortunately for Ruml, the facts prove otherwise. Fully 75 percent of organized crime in the Czech Republic is down to Czech gangs, while foreigners convicted of crimes last year accounted for only 5.6 percent of the total.

Ruml's xenophobia, of course, like that generally prevailing in the country, extends only to nationals of former east European socialist



Ken Biggs
POSTMARK PRAHA

MAFIA GANGS SHOOT IT OUT

A gun battle in Prague's Wenceslas Square on August 2,

countries, and of course, the 14,000-strong Vietnamese community and "Slovak" Romanies ("gypsies"). It reflects the aspirations of the Czech government to join the European Union and the European Union's "fortress Europe" policy of tough measures against immigration and asylum seekers from non-member states. While the Czech authorities pursue "illegal immigrants" from eastern Europe and all points east and south with particular zeal (deporting more than 1,000 last year and permanently barring a further 9,500, under existing tough regulations which allow no appeal), the authorities have turned a blind eye to the tens of thousands of "illegal" US citizens who, until recently, were to be found in Prague and other cities and towns. The government's courting of the European Union explains most of the grossest violations of human rights by Ruml's police. These include the breaking down of the door of a flat occupied by Vietnamese in the South Moravian city of Brno, on the pretext of looking for smuggled cigarettes (must one of a number of "inexcusable acts" by the police during the raid, in the words of the Czech Republic's Constitutional Court) and the beating up of a Nigerian woman with refugee status by police in the North Bohemian town of Usti and Labem.

With the collapse of the Czech "economic miracle" this year, the introduction of severe austerity measures and a steady rise in official unemployment in the last couple of years (to 4.3 percent in July), foreign workers are also coming under attack, paralleling trends in the European Union. Press reports highlight the rise in the number of foreigners working in the Czech Republic, notably Slovaks, Ukrainians and Poles. But at the end of 1996, they accounted for only

1.9 percent of the labour force, as against 1.5 percent in the previous year, and they work mainly in the building industry, where there is a shortage of skilled labour. There are also large numbers of Ukrainians working illegally as cheap labour in certain districts, such as Sokolov in West Bohemia on the German border. Their presence is now being exploited by reactionary circles to whip up anti-foreigner sentiment as part of the regime's strategy of diverting attention from the real causes of the country's economic crisis. Regrettably, even elements on the Left allow themselves to be sucked into the whirlpool of populist demagogy. For example, three days after the Communist daily Halo noviny carried a story headlined "End of the humbug: Foreigners out!" (reporting a statement by German construction minister Klaus Topfer that the labour contracts of Czech, Polish and Hungarian building workers employed in Germany should be terminated at the earliest possible date), it also carried a report (under the headline "Black Foreigners") complaining that illegal Ukrainian workers in Sokolov, amongst their other misdemeanours, "don't spend their money locally, but send it home".

GORBACHEV'S BETRAYAL

Postmark Praha, in its July-August edition, quotes from Jan Kurka's postscript to Russian MP V.I. Ilyukin's pamphlet entitled "Gorbachev Unmasked" in which Kurka contends that Gorbachev did not act alone but had accomplices both at home and abroad. Most notable among these were Yakovlev, Sheverdnadze, Yeltsin, etc., at home, as well as an international network of traitors, and opportunists.

In 1987 following Gorbachev's announcement of perestroika, new thinking, and glasnost, Czechoslovakia

came up with its own version of these reforms accompanied by changes in the leadership in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC). In April 1987 during his visit to Prague and Bratislava, Gorbachev heaped praise on president Husak and the KSC leadership, describing the dissidents who failed in their attempted 1968 counter-revolution as a band of malcontents. A year and a half later, Kurka continues these same malcontents were praising Gorbachev as a true democrat and Gorbachev for his part was telling the KSC leadership that they must sit around the table with these malcontents and engage in a dialogue as the Polish party had done with Solidarity.

When the KSC leadership under Milos Jakes refused, Gorbachev and his accomplices used the Soviet embassy staff and its secret services to form a fifth column in the KSC central committee and the Prague party organization. This effectively liquidated any opposition to the new Soviet model of Socialism and was accomplished by the disbanding of tried and tested cadres loyal to socialism and Marxism-Leninism. Anyone suspected of having reservations about the new path was pressured into resignation. In the April 1988 central committee meeting, the fifth column consolidated its position with an avalanche of cadre changes. Never before had the Soviet Union meddled in a fraternal state's internal affairs so intensively and inexorably. This says Kurka resulted in the resignation of president Husak in 1989 and his replacement by Vaclav Havel, thanks to the votes of the Communist deputies in the CSSR Federal Assembly. Havel swore an oath of loyalty to the socialist constitution which he later broke at his convenience.

Havel had no problems in

establishing an immediate rapport with the number two man in the Soviet administration, Yakovlev, who is described by Kurka as a CIA sleeper. This was also true of film director Jiri Svoboda, a close colleague of Havel and a member of the central committee's cultural commission. Kurka concludes by saying that Gorbachev, Yakovlev and company had lied when they claimed that perestroika meant socialist renewal. It was designed to liquidate socialism in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union. The people of Czechoslovakia are now having to live with the consequences of this misdeed.

– George Hess

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

From:
**ALL UNION LENIN COMMUNIST
UNION OF YOUTH**
Central Committee, Moscow

There is proceeding political repressions in Kazakhstan and on May 26, 1997, the security services of the present regime of Kazakhstan jailed two young members of the Komsomol organization – charged with “hooliganism”!

Aynur Kurmanov and Sergei Kolokolov, because they put up leaflets against the policies of president Nazarbaev, who has practically become a despot, ruling the land as it is his fiefdom!

The young Komsomols who take part in activities protesting the terrible conditions of Soviet people are either jailed, beaten and also lose their jobs. The trial was a farce and no proof was presented. Also, the woman Irina Alekseevna was

jailed for her activity, fighting for the pensions that are owing pensioners for months on end.

Last year, the workers' organization of Kazakhstan was banned.

We, the Central Committee of the Lenin Communist Union of Youth, are protesting this terror! We are appealing to the United Nations Organizations protesting human rights violations and are asking international solidarity to free our jailed Komsomols!

– V. Putivtseva
Secretary

DEAR NSC READERS:

We're asking all our readers in 61 countries to send letters of protest to:

*President N. Nazarbaev
3480067 Alma Ata
Kazakhstan
Pl. Respubliki 4*

*Editorial Board of Northstar
Compass and Council of the Canadian
Friends of Soviet People have sent
letters of protests.*

*Let us show our solidarity with
these Komsomol patriots, fighting for
the resurrection of the Soviet Union and
Socialism!*

*We also would like to thank our
comrades for the materials that they
have sent us, which we shall utilize in
future issue of NSC.*

From:
London, ENGLAND

Dear Editor:

Thank you for sending us copies of “Secret Documents” and “Next to Stalin”. We apologise for the delay in sending the cost of these books.

We have found both books very interesting. We wonder if we can publish “Next to Stalin” in Turkish. This will help the people of Turkey have a better understanding of Stalin and the events in his period.

We are looking forward to

hearing from you.

– Best Regards,
A. Kaya
TDKP (Revolutionary
Communist Party of Turkey)

*The Editorial Board of NSC and
Council of Canadian Friends of Soviet
People would be honoured to have you
publish “Next To Stalin” into Turkish.
The book “Secret Documents” is being
translated and published now in
Sweden, Brazil, Turkey, Italy and
Spain. Our friends in Russia are going
to re-translate and publish “Secret
Documents” into Russian.*

*The actual truth is gaining ground
and we are very honoured.*

From:
MOMENT OF TRUTH
Moscow

Coordinating Council of the peoples'-political movement “Marxist Platform”, the Editorial Board of newspaper “Moment of Truth” and the journal “Enlightenment” greet the journal Northstar Compass and its readers with the 5th Anniversary from the date of the first issue appearing.

We wish you great success in our common struggles – the resurrection of the Soviet Union and the victory of socialism all over the world. We feel that dedicated work of your enthusiasts in the Editorial Board of NSC and the membership of the Canadian Friends of Soviet People is very much needed now, when the world Communist movement is living through a temporary crisis and especially now the courage to persevere is the task of communists today.

We feel very strongly and support your idea of setting up an International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, because it's the proletarian solidarity that is sadly lacking now in the world working class and communist

movements.

- Co-Chairman of the movement and Editor of newspaper "Moment of Truth" and journal "Enlightenment"
- V.F. Isaichikov □

From:
THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE
Leeds, England

Dear Friends:

The bourgeoisie continue to portray Stalin as Trotsky's murderer despite the complete lack of evidence for such an assertion. I enclose a copy of our conclusions, based on Bill Bland's research on this subject in 1994. We enclose copies in the hope that they might be of interest to your readers. Please feel free to publish in full or in part, should you think this worth while.

We certainly would like to be on your mailing list and to exchange publications.

- Yours Fraternally,
John Puntis
for the Communist League

Yes, we appreciate your article "The Assassination of Trotsky". We shall in future republish it in NSC as a supplement. □

From:
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Editor:

As the incumbent Government ministers settle into their offices do they ponder and synthesize the stark choices which confront the people of Britain at the end of the 20th century:

1. To become a divided satrapy (like Yugoslavia) within a rapacious Federal Capitalist Empire;
2. To be a minion of an equally rapacious American Empire;
3. To take control of the Nation's affairs and return to a National policy which is not dictated by external agencies. Working in

harmony with other Nations, to achieve social and economic justice, for all people, true Internationalism.

The third alternative was the vision which inspired our generation at the end of the Second World War. After we had conquered the European Capitalist Federation, created by the Nazi Blitzkrieg. In the autumn of 1940, when the whole of Europe had been conquered John Strachey, who became a Minister in the Attlee government, wrote a book "Federalism or Socialism?". He pointed out that despite the way it had been established, a "Capitalist Federal Europe" existed. He also pointed out that such a Federal Europe could only serve the interests of the capitalist system, as Lenin had also stated in 1916. My generation, today's pensioners, defeated the armed challenge of the Nazi European federation. Alongside the people of the USSR (made the greatest sacrifice in people and economic resources) we destroyed this first attempt to impose, by armed force, Industrial Feudalism on the world.

Since 1972, when Edward Heath gave away our fishing grounds, successive party leaders have tried to convince the British people that we would fare better Inside Europe, the first step was the Common Market. Then step by step, we have been driven towards a Banker's federal Europe. In the process, the British Welfare state has been dismantled. Full employment has been abandoned as an aim of Government, the health service is on the verge of ruin, the Nation's natural resources have been sold on the world stock markets. The ubiquitous E.U. tax (V.A.T.) has been imposed on us, now control of the Nation's bank is returned to "private enterprise". What the awesome might of the Panzers and

the Luftwaffe could not achieve, has been taken from us by the Quislings in Government office. Does the present Government intend to reverse these acts of national betrayal?

The Pensioners' Rights Campaign (Northwest) has worked, with some success, within the broad pensioners' movement to alert our generation to the need to link the struggle for justice for pensioners with the struggles of the younger generation. A just pension and dignity in old age cannot be achieved unless we also support the struggle to restore our industrial base, and the control of Britain's natural resources and finances to the British Parliament.

I end by quoting from John Strachey's 1940 book, 1997 Labour leaders should take note: "There can be no doubt that by giving up the struggle for socialism, and acquiescing in the continued rule of monopoly capitalism, we condemn the world to the un-ending violence of inter-imperialist war" (p. 266).

- C. Denton

We thank our reader - who is the Chairman of Pensioners' Rights Campaign for this letter. Success in your campaign! □

From:
Nicosia, CYPRUS

Dear Comrades:

Thank you for your letters of June 2 and August 7, 1997, as well as for sending us recent issues of the Northstar Compass.

We appreciate your efforts to extend solidarity to the peoples of the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately, however, we are not able to respond positively to your appeal for financial support of the Northstar Compass, due to our own financial limitations.

We also regret the fact that we

are not in position to send a delegate to your 5th Anniversary Conference to be held in February 1998. We congratulate you on this anniversary and wish you to have a successful Conference.

- With Comradely Greetings,
Andros Kyprianou
Member of the Political Bureau
Head of International Relations
of the Central Committee
Progressive Party of
Working People

Let our contacts blossom in our struggles for socialism and a resurrected Soviet Union. Conference materials will be forwarded to you as well as each issue of Northstar Compass. □

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

**From:
GREAT BRITAIN**

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed is my subscription to NSC. I was introduced to NSC by Denis Martin and I find your publication very useful. As an active communist since I was in the 8th Army, I seek to maintain contact with the labour movement. I do not need to tell you the problems that confront us with the advent in England of the "New Labour".

Enclosed are some pamphlets about the Trade Union councils and others.

- Charles Denton

Your pamphlets on Trade Union Councils is very interesting and we shall review it in future issue of NSC. □

**From:
Hove, ENGLAND**

Dear Friends:

Please find enclosed \$50 donation towards your current

financial difficulties, but I wish that I could send more.

Your publication to me is very important. It is valuable and it should continue to be produced in the present form. NSC combats the great distortion of history that is taking place, particularly about the Soviet Union, the work and contribution of J.V. Stalin. So, it is understandable that you are receiving growing hostility from the so-called "left".

Over here in England, there is continuing vilification of Socialism and the Soviet Union, and it is continuing at an alarming rate in the press and all other media such as TV and radio. Distortions, falsehoods are presented as facts with blatant cunning. No wonder that the people have no other views allowed them.

Thanks for printing the item about the Soviet-British Monument to the War Dead in NSC. Our Society is very grateful.

Sending you my good wishes to Northstar Compass,
- Albert G. Williams

We thank you for your materials, donation and for struggling together with us to dispel all these lies and vilifications. We shall surely overcome! □

**NEWS FROM
U.S. FRIENDS OF
NORTHSTAR COMPASS**

**From:
San Gabriel, CA., USA**

Dear Editors of NSC!

Am writing to let you know that after reading 2 copies of NSC, you have excellent articles, and it is time that all progressive and left papers, organizations should follow your lead and work together. Reaction is rushing ahead to unite their actions, and we must do the same.

The Allies (USSR, USA and Britain) during Second World War did unite in their efforts to defeat fascism in Europe and the world. The tragedy of Yugoslavia comes to mind ... the courageous fighters of the partisan movement showed the world what could be done if people are united in their struggles. Yugoslav partisans held 10 German divisions at bay and thus helped the Allies in their struggles. Partisans knew themselves that they could not have liberated Yugoslavia without the help of the Soviet Army.

If you would agree, I would like to write to NSC about the events in former Yugoslavia and the present situation. The separation of the former Yugoslav republics is a tragedy, all masterminded by the internal nationalists and outside interference by Imperialism. These former republics are finding out now that they are pawns in the big game of Western colonialism.

Your magazine is much better and progressive than the People's Weekly World since PWW does not analyze the present danger in former socialist countries. The rise of nationalists and outright fascist ideology in former Yugoslavia is a danger to the whole world. Croatian nationalism is nothing more or less than fascism as they practiced during Second World War.

I am a Montenegrin, coming to USA in 1939, serving in the US army fighting against Japan in the Philippines. I fought militarism in the East, but now the U.S. is again promoting and supporting militarism, Japanese expansionism and outright colonialism.

I am glad to see that Michael Popovich is on the Editorial Board, since I often read his poems and articles in former Yugoslav newspapers. My regards to him, his poems and prose are a treasure to all.

- Pero Nikov

We thank you for your analysis and insight that you have gone through. Together, we shall overcome the evil that has befallen former socialist countries. □

**From:
Lehigh Acres, FL., USA**

Did you hear about U.P.S.? This is an important strike of the Teamsters and I hear European workers are going to join in – I heard that yesterday from a shop steward. This is very important strike and if it spreads to Europe so the workers all unite, then it would probably have effect in SU, too. I hope so. SOMETHING has to happen. Situation is bad in SU, but it's bad here also and getting worse. What they are striking over is benefits that workers have had for a long time now, due to Communists helping out Labor Unions. Companies, especially in the state of Florida where there is "right to work" law here, companies hire part-time people and don't have to give any benefits. People here have 2 or 3 part-time jobs as a result of this. This is going on all over the nation here as corporations revert back to super-capitalism. This strike is very important! Not just for the Teamsters, but for everyone. In the USA, Labor Unions have been weak for a long time now. Workers of the world HAVE to unite; united, we could stop countries from running!

I think what is problem in SU a lot now, is that any honest Communist is threatened by the gangs of Mafia. Zyuganov, I thought, used to be good, but now I see from Northstar Compass that he is also no good. I think maybe everyone is afraid of gangs.

– Thank you. Struggle!

Tani Jantsang

More and more people of the left who read NSC are coming to realize

that calling yourself "communist" and mouthing phrases of "Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism" does not automatically suppose that you are a COMMUNIST! □

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

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find a \$100 donation towards NSC. I also would suggest that NSC readers read the book "Medal of Dishonor". All progressive people should read this, those who are trying to effect change for the better.

– Mary K. Kral

Our Editorial Board is very appreciative of your help, your letters and this information that you sent to the Editorial Board. We need people like you in order to make the changes that we are all striving for. □

**From:
Hilliard, OH., USA**

Dear Friends:

Your journal is excellent. I would like to receive all the back issues. How much would that cost?

Also, I would like to get the Works of Stalin (13 volumes). Only the version that came out around

1953, by the Foreign Language Publishing House.

– Claude D. McKinsey

In the near future, we shall send you the back issues of NSC and a donation would be appreciated.

We're asking help from our readers as to where to get the 13 volumes of Stalin! □

**From:
Cosmopolis, WA., USA**

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed is \$100 donation to help defray the cost of the 5th Anniversary of NSC Conference in 1998 and to make certain that NSC continues to publish.

The donation is in honour of the great John Gilman, cousin of the noble and unforgettable Joseph North, outstanding leader of the Communist Party of USA.

Gilman was a highly decorated combat veteran of Second World War. At the age of 23, he was awarded a Silver Star, a Distinguished Service Cross and Two Purple Hearts for his bravery in action for 9 out of 11 months on the front lines. He met the Red Army on the Elbe River in 1945.

John Gilman is a fervent anti-fascist, Director of the Wisconsin

Committee of the U.S. Friends of Northstar Compass: Bill Doares, Steve Paulmier, Angelo D'Angelo, George Gruenthal and Matthew (not on Editorial Board), Lois Singer, Daniel Vila, Leo Lazarus.



Committee for Peace and Justice, and outstanding leader on behalf of Socialist Cuba. He is also an ardent advocate of Socialist America and a Socialist World, plus the resurrection of the Soviet Union as a Socialist State!

- Lydia S. Karhu

Your dedication and help is known throughout many countries, Lydia. Your energy is far beyond the capacity of your years. May the future generations emulate your fervent desire for peace and socialism. □

LETTERS

From:
Thunder Bay, ONT.

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find a donation towards the work of Northstar Compass - \$250.00. Keep up the good work!

- Anonymous

Whoever you are, we sincerely thank you. May there be more Anonymous people like you! □

From:
Bath, ONT.

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is \$100 towards the NSC. Keep it going!

- Bernard Podhy

We shall keep it going Bernard. Many thanks! □

From:
Toronto, ONT.

Here's a renewal plus a donation. I read your journal with great pleasure and wish you health and further success.

- Alexandra Tomaszewska

Pass the word along. Get your friends to subscribe! □

From:
Stornoway, SASK.

Enclosed please find \$50 donation towards NSC. It's good reading! Billionaires want to control the earth, but the day is coming when the people of the earth shall wake up!

- Yours Truly,
Oscar Gellert

Right on Oscar, as always! □

From:
Pelly, SASK.

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for the wonderful Northstar - it is very informative and interesting.

I would very much like to attend the upcoming Conference in February, 1998.

- Regards,
Vivian Slastukin

We certainly hope to see you at the 5th Anniversary Conference. □

From:
Crescent Beach, B.C.

Here's my renewal, and donation. I wish you continued success.

- Taras Sawchuk

Many thanks! Let's promote NSC for new subscribers! □

From:
Innisfree, ALBERTA

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find \$250.00 to support Northstar Compass in its necessary work. From Peter H. Skolski \$100, Alex Skolski \$100, and George Sydora \$50.

- Yours,
Alex Skolski

Everyone that visits the Friendship House in Toronto and sees the Honour Boards, comments that you 3 are there more than anyone else. We sincerely thank you, comrades! □

From:
Cowley, ALBERTA

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is my renewal plus a donation.

I look forward to receiving every issue of NSC and to really know what is taking place in former Soviet Union.

- Michael M. Verigin

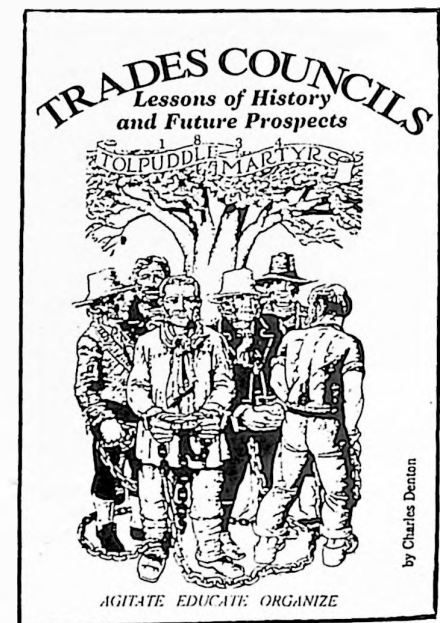
We shall try not to disappoint you in each future issue of NSC. □

BOOK REVIEWS

TRADE COUNCILS

By: Charles Denton

This book is an abridged account of the history of the British Labour movement from the early 1900 to the



present. Denton in this book manages to portray the movement through all its struggles in a concise and accurate manner, showing the struggle between the Trade Union Councils and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) in its true light. He explains in a very meaningful way

the age old struggle between those who wish to reform the free enterprise system and those who wish to replace it with a more equitable one – a system that would allow the majority to enjoy the wealth produced by any one nation or group of nations. He accurately describes the left activists when he describes the labour paper "Beehive" edited by Potter, a London carpenter, as having policies, "reaching out for working class state power". In contrast, he describes the policies of most labour leaders in Britain from the 19th century to the present as ones in which, "revolutionary change and the transfer of wealth and power was not included in the aims of even the most militant of leaders".

The book begins by describing the trade union clubs of the early 1800's as being primarily mutual aid organizations for the transient journeymen of that period. Denton proceeds to describe how these clubs evolved into the "National Association for the Protection of Labour" which was the first trades council in Britain thanks to the efforts of one John Doherty, an Irish cotton spinner.

The book then introduces the reader to the fear with which the British ruling class viewed organized labour and the capitalist-landlord class's readiness to use all the powers of the state (troops and police) to control labour. Conversely, Denton also describes the evolution of the two divergent trends in the labour movement commonly described as "Moderates and Militants". These trends continue to this day not only in Britain but also in the Canadian and many other labour organizations throughout the industrialized world. The reader will find many lessons applicable to today's struggles.

The struggle between the two schools of thought among labour

activists manifested itself in the fact that the militants wanted political power while the moderates were content with economic reform and political issues were considered secondary. This, the author points out, was referred to as the, "Parliamentary road to social justice". The moderates believed that the parliament and legal system of the ruling propertied class would act as protectors of the working class. This, the author concludes, has resulted in the fact that, "a hundred and thirty years after the formation of the London Trades Councils, we have seen the results of that faith in the system. Legislation which sets out to destroy all the political reform which favour Trade Unions. With no sign that a labour government will repeal the anti-union laws".

The book details the split between the trade councils and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) in some detail. It describes how the trade councils were removed from the TUC and how this silenced the voice of the Socialists and the grassroots. Denton concludes that, "the TUC has reflected the ups and downs of the capitalist boom and slump, in good times winning concessions, in bad times, keeping the workers in check."

The book goes on to describe the struggle during the First World War and the build up to the General Strike of 1925. It describes in detail how the labour movement prepared for this confrontation with the British bourgeoisie and how the monied classes had carefully prepared effective counter-measures. Among other things, they incarcerated the Central Committee of the Communist Party for two years on a charge of sedition. The final sell-out of the strikers by the labour leadership is dealt with by Denton very effectively. He describes the labour hierarchy in the following words: "They had

no intention of challenging the government, they had no desire to take on the power of the state. Intimidated by Stanley Baldwin, the Tory Prime Minister, they ordered the strikers back to work."

The book also deals with the support given by the British workers to the young Soviet State when it was subjected to aggression by the Poles in 1919. It further deals with the purging of Communists from the British labour movement, the hungry thirties and the resultant rise of Fascism. In its final pages, the book describes the British labour movement as it exists today and the author's conviction that it will survive and develop if it returns to its roots and the role of "agitation, organizing and education at local level".

This book will prove very interesting to all those on the left who are having to deal with reformism in all its forms in their day-to-day struggles. There are many lessons from which we can all benefit. □

OBITUARY

A MEMORIUM TO: COMRADE FRITZ RATHIG, of Berlin

By: Ray Stevenson – Canada

Word has been received just this week of the death of Fritz Rathig, in Berlin at the age of 75. Such news, always painful and diminishing for any friend and comrade of acquaintance, comes with special poignancy, marking as it does the end-life of a gentle, sensitive, heroic and altogether extraordinary man.

Fritz's life began during the turmoil in post-World War I Germany and the emergence of the Weimar Republic of the 1920's. It was a period when despite immense

and heroic efforts, the German working class was unable to win the required unified battle front to defeat the predatory monopoly and revanchist forces that eventually were to emplace the Nazi-Hitlerite war machine and the Nazi Party in power. Thus began the drive to World War II and the violent deaths of at least 50 millions of humans, the Western powers supported "Drang Noch Osten" (March to the East) that was to be the "Death March" of Nazism in the land of the working class revolution, the USSR.

As a young man, not yet 20 years old, Fritz was drafted into the Wehrmacht, only dimly aware of the vast, blood-thirsty aims of his Government. His unawareness was soon to be dispelled in the awful events that were to follow. Not long into the war on the Eastern front, and the entry of the U.S. forces, he was captured in North Africa and found himself in a Prisoner-of-War Camp in the southern U.S. Later, he was transferred to a POW camp in the Northern U.S. and at war's end, in late 1945, was shipped back to Germany.

I met Fritz first in 1978 in Wroclaw, Poland at a "World Conference of Intellectuals", under the auspices of the World Peace Council. There, he represented the Secretariat of the WPC from Helsinki where he occupied the post of Secretary for the German Democratic Republic Peace Committee. We were to spend slightly more than the next two years together in Helsinki and I was soon to learn of the particularly excellent qualities of this [for me] new Comrade. We became close friends and kept in touch over the years until his untimely death at the end of June.

After his return to Germany in 1945, he began his "re-education" (as he placed it) and within a short time, had embraced Marxism and

Leninism and, as he told me, decided to devote his life to the struggle for peace among all nations.

As such, he was to emerge as a leading protagonist, organizer and force in the development of the massive and thoroughly democratic peace movement that was a central part of post WW II GDR life. Near Karenhalle, the special castle built by Goering for his Swedish wife in upper Brandenburg, Fritz was responsible through the GDR Peace Committee for the rebuilding and refurbishing of a former Junkers estate, only now it was devoted under his direction, to the study of war and peace, and particularly the reasons for the emergence of Nazism in Germany. He never revealed to me how many "students" had passed through this "University For Peace", but the members must have been in the thousands during its eight to ten year existence.

Later, as already noted, Fritz was assigned to the World Peace Council Secretariat where he served for several years, giving sage and outstanding leadership. His personal warmth, the wisdom of the accumulated years won him friends and comrades wherever he worked and lived. He was known and beloved not only in his native GDR, but internationally. Plagued by a difficult spinal problem during his later years, none of us who worked side by side with him ever heard him complain, although we knew that at times, his pain was severe and difficult.

Fritz Rathig's life was exemplary, and as he himself might say, "the more so because he had become a Communist" in heart, soul and above all, in his unceasing work for Peace. Perhaps we can say that the background colors of his life, etched in the horrors of a war he was thrust into almost unknowingly, colors his presence among us ever

more brilliantly. That might be part of the truth. The major part is that he was a man of unswerving truth, of honour and of lasting worth. All of those who knew and loved him for his intrinsic nobility will attest to that. □

ATLANTIC REPORT

By: Vic Ratsma
Atlantic Provinces
Director

NOVA SCOTIA'S ENTREPRENEUR

Nova Scotia is probably best known for its natural beauty, which is an attraction for tourists from all over the world. Its citizens also pride themselves in a unique culture, rooted in Gaelic traditions which are reflected in its music, dance, etc. More than a few musical groups have made waves on the national and international scene, and more seem to be arising with every passing year.

On the negative side, the province suffers from perennial high unemployment, a dying fisheries industry, low income levels, high taxation and a serious level of poverty, not to speak of crime, drug trafficking, etc. Job creation efforts most often result in attracting part-time and low paying jobs to the area, which are insufficient to produce the necessary economic growth to improve living standards. Despite these shortcomings however, Nova Scotians are proud of their province's traditions and lifestyles, and few are willingly moving to greener pastures in other parts of Canada.

There is one thing though that we cannot be proud of and, if it were widely known, would be more than a little embarrassing. A little known Nova Scotian by the name

of Doug Steele has become the Czar of Moscow's nightlife by using aggressive gimmicks that would be totally illegal if used in Canada. Entrepreneurial opportunism, coupled with greed for a fast buck and caring little about standards of safety or morality, while taking full advantage of the lack of law enforcement (if such still exists in today's Russia) permit him to carry out his 'Get-Rich-Quick' scheme. Customers are served cheap beer that is past its expiration date and encouraged through low prices and give-aways to drink themselves into a stew and, when drunk, dance on top of the bar. No one cares when they fall off, break arms or legs and several people are reported to have fallen from a second floor balcony, which has no railing.

According to Mr. Steele, Russian entrepreneurs are too timid and have no idea about how to serve their customers. And Canadian investors are considered too moral to survive in an environment where crime is high and bribes (Mafia protection?) must be paid.

Unfortunately, the activities of Mr. Steele in Moscow are but one example of the ruthless exploitation of situations that some people will take advantage of for the sake of making money. There is no concern about the impact on individuals or the community, no barriers that respect decency, no reluctance to play ball with criminals, no fear of breaking the law, not anything that might impede or limit the taking of profit. Such is the world of free enterprise capitalism!

How do Mr. Steele's activities compare to those of large corporations? It is becoming a well known fact that multi-national enterprises, through collusion, manipulation of governments and international organizations such as the World Bank and IMF are taking

total control of the world market.

Money now flows unimpeded across borders that are closed for people. Corporations no longer have a commitment to nationality and not only threaten to, but actually to take their business to those places where profits are greatest and living standards are lowest. Many examples are readily available of companies that have moved their operations to countries where they can pay less than subsistence wages, flaunt any safety considerations for their employees, tolerate a total lack of health standards, disregard any human rights laws, discriminate against women, fire people at will and persecute anyone trying to establish a union. Capitalism is like a big sink-hole - it sucks working people in deeper and deeper, all the while amassing profits for the rich to get richer. Yes, there still are countries under capitalism's rule where working people are having decent living standards. These are the hard-won gains of past and present working men and women who joined together and battled for what was justifiably theirs. But capitalism as a system never changed and as we enter the 21st century, corporate power now rivals or exceeds that of national governments.

There may still be time to do something about it, to re-establish socialism in the former USSR, to unite working people all over the world, to re-establish a socialist international, to halt the expansion of NATO, etc. But the time to do it is NOW, before all control is in the hands of corporations and governments we elect are just their mouthpiece.

(The information about Doug Steele was obtained from an article in the Globe & Mail.) □

**YOU HAVE AN OPINION
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NEWS DIGEST COMMENT

REFORMIST IDEAS OF CPRF!

By: D. Berg

Regardless of its positive or negative features, the significance of the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) held in Moscow in mid April 1997 is that it was a political watershed in the movement of the Russian working class and its allies to rid themselves of Yeltsin and his capitalist reforms; and advance the struggle for a return to socialism and working class political power. It, once and for all, made clear the social base of the CPRF, the nature of its membership, and the programmatic, political, and ideologic orientation of its Zyuganov leadership. What Jim Sacouman, an invited observer for the Canadian Communist Party, had to say in his report back, seems to indicate that except for a "sizeable minority" (his terminology) the delegates were representative of the intelligentsia and middle sectors. He points out that even though there were quite a few changes in the Central Committee, there was little change in its ideologic composition. That ideologic outlook conditioned Zyuganov's report to the Congress. There was little, if any, emphasis on the class struggle, or the leading role of the working class in society and social change. on the other hand, the theme he returned to time and again, in a variety of ways, was the Bernstein reformist idea of gradual evolutionary social change, within the framework of capitalist relations, with multi-form ownership of

productive property. His occasional, in passing, references to working class power and socialism were incidental and unsubstantiated. Even with pressure from the grassroots, "sizeable minority" forcing commitments to no longer seek a coalition with the Yeltsinites, press for a Duma no confidence in Yeltsin vote, and organize a general political strike, "at some appropriate time" the projected issues to be raised, stay within the bounds of that ideologic outlook. They were limited to patriotism, defence of the national interests, and resignation of Yeltsin.

As reported by Sacouman, on the other side of the political divide and following a course that flows in the exact opposite direction from that of the CPRF, was an international meeting of communist parties called by the "union of Communist Parties - Communist Party of the Soviet Union" (UCP-CPSU) at the same general time in Moscow. It was attended by most of the CPs of the former Soviet Union and fourteen other Communist parties. Oleg Shenin, chair of the UCP-CPSU spelled out the "main line":

1. The revolutionary transformation of capitalism, rooted in the working class as the basic motive force;

2. Opposition to opportunism and bureaucracy, both in the Communist party and society;

3. The communists as a vanguard to ensure democratic control of society through the Dictatorship of the Proletariat;

4. Uniting all Communists in a step by step anti-Imperialist struggle, starting with a sharing of information.

According to Sacouman, "those positions were supported in varied ways by the large majority of parties in attendance". For some unexplained reason, no representative of the CPRF attended the first day.

Later, Alexander Shabanov speaking on behalf of the CPRF proclaimed, contrary to the obvious, that there was no principled ideologic differences among the CP of Russia and the former USSR, presumably including the CPRF.

In an effort to impose the leading role of the CPRF on the gathering, he pictured it as being out front with "theoretical advances" such as "ultra Imperialism" and the "evolutionary development of socialism" in Russia. With the exception of the Italian Communist Re-foundation Party which shared those views to a small degree, no one bought that line. (Sacouman's evaluation)

Again, guided by information in Sacouman's report: "A special post Congress meeting with the international observers, held by the CPRF to discuss concerns expressed by them, presumably to be a mutual discussion, in actual fact, became a series of lectures by CPRF leaders on their problems and the situation in Russia. The most common response was polite disagreement with the views and main trends in the CPRF's analysis and direction." In a no doubt profoundly considered opinion, Zyuganov stated: "It is theoretically impossible to explain how the working class moved from socialism to capitalism", and "we pampered the working class in the former period". May we say he is a bit off base, in fact, dead wrong, on both counts. He should go back and contemplate his navel some more - or his crystal ball.

First, it was not the working class who engineered the move from socialism back to capitalism. It was the intelligentsia - primarily, its administrative component. If in its ideologic disorientation and confusion, the working class made no real defence of their socialist gains, it was because the means of

doing so had been taken out of their hands. They had lost control of not only the state, economy, and the party, but most importantly, their main defence organization: the trade unions. That control had been taken over by the administrative intelligentsia, which in the words of Felix Gorelik of the Ukraine, "had become a special caste, responsible to no one but themselves, with their own internal discipline".

Regarding the line and decisions of the CPRF Congress, it was Sacouman's opinion that most foreign observers saw them as more or less set in concrete. That may well be, as essentially they correspond to the aspirations and limited goals of the middle sectors of society, the intelligentsia and small owners, who are the CPRF's dependable core support base and probably its most cohesive element.

Although reportedly there was a strong opposition current at the CPRF Congress, it did not appear to be an organized one. Available reports make no mention of any alternative program or platform presented.

What that opposition will do from here on is problematical. They could, as Sacouman suggests, begin to identify with one or the other existing Communist organizations. Possibly they will find none of them suitable to their purposes, particularly those who are not inclined towards a realistic protracted working class struggle position, as contrasted to the quick fix immediate revolution fantasy of some in the ultra left. It is also possible they will gather their forces and come together in their own organization, with those who share their outlook. It could mean a substantial membership loss for the CPRF, especially in the regions outside the major population centres, and even in them. In some

areas, the CPRF could practically cease to exist, as a meaningful political organization.

One of the questions to be resolved in a new agenda, is how they should relate to the national patriotic front focus of the CPRF leadership. Should they put all their eggs in that basket, as Zyuganov does? For sure, to build a united front of all the anti-Yeltsin forces is an important goal, but to include religious groups that are well known to be tied to and manipulated by US Imperialism through its executive arm, the CIA, is incompatible with that objective. It is a negation of the idea of national sovereignty.

Religion has always been a tool of the propertied classes, to justify and maintain their dominance. The European powers relied on it heavily in building their colonial empires. It is no strange coincidence that the predominant religion in Latin America is Catholicism. Although the Russian churches were forced by circumstances to accommodate themselves to working class power and socialism, they never changed their basic nature. Once Soviet power was destroyed, they by and large reverted to their former role in society. The diversion of the people from a struggle against the authoritarian rule of the owning classes, to a reward in the hereafter.

It should not be difficult to understand that US Imperialism is using them for its objectives in Russia. Including them, along with forming a coalition with Yeltsin, can serve no other purpose than to help stabilize the shaky position of the pro-capitalist forces in Russia. The suspicion is growing that the CPRF leadership has that in mind. It would serve the interests of those social elements that are reasonably happy with the new order of things, but would like to see it function in a manner more favorable to them.

Need it be said, much of the CPRF membership fits into that category. As much as they proclaim their concern for the future of the country, their first loyalty is to their own interests, and not those of the country as a whole, and for sure, not those of the working class.

The projected massive country-wide demonstrations planned around the 80th Anniversary of the revolution, to be centred in Leningrad, may make the national patriotic front project largely irrelevant. They will not only move the action to a much higher

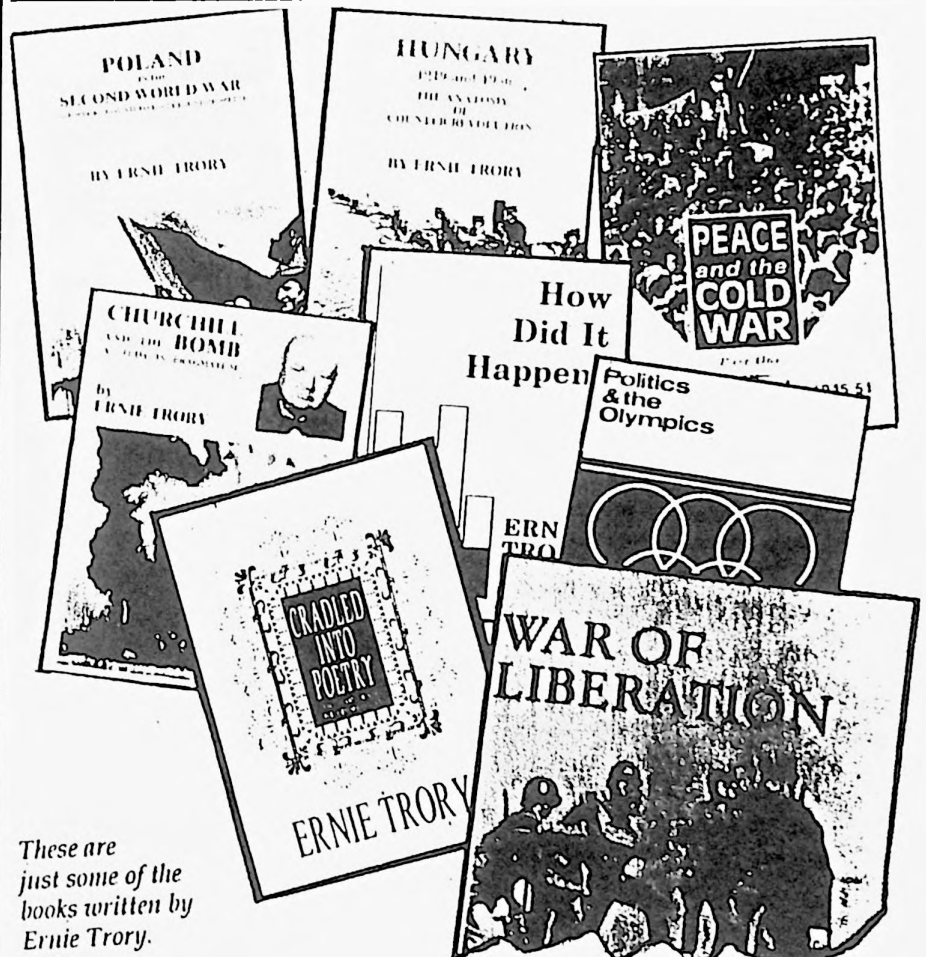
level, and in a different direction, but could put in doubt the continued existence of the Yeltsin regime. If the trade unions are fully drawn into the action, it will mean the working class is finally taking leadership in determining what course the country will follow.

Mobilizing for the event has the possibility of creating a new alignment of working class forces, and as Sacouman indicates, one which the Yeltsin crowd cannot hold out against, even if the CPRF leadership does its utmost to derail it. □

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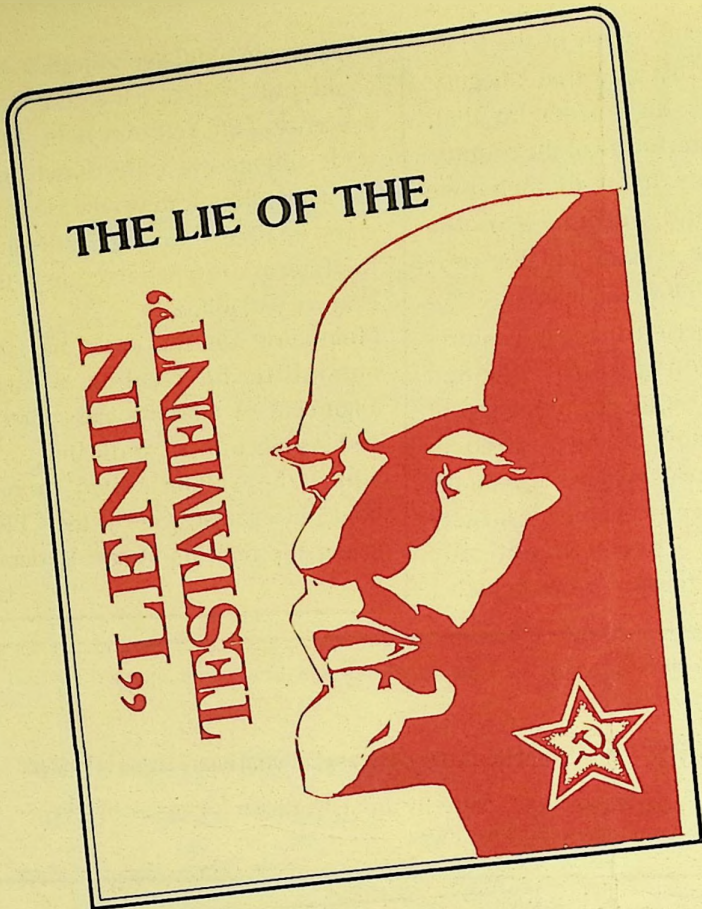
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Trotskyites, in order to discredit Stalin, have made several serious allegations. These of course began with Trotsky himself, as he jockeyed to gain control of the CPSU(B) after the death of Lenin. One of the most influential distortions of the truth, 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 progressives 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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