

Published by the Canadian Friends of Soviet People (formerly Canada-USSR Association)

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RUSSIA AT CROSSROADS IN JUNE!

In June of this year, the proposed Presidential Elections are to take place.

If we read the Western press carefully, we'll notice a flurry of articles, analyses, predictions, direct and indirect innuendoes about

EDITORIAL

the situation. NATO worries; multinational corporations worry; IMF worries a lot – all this plus changes in Yeltsin's cabinet-governmental reshuffles – all these items have to make all of our readers think as to the future consequences of the upcoming elections. That is, if they are allowed to take place!

In this issue, you will read analyses by some of our Soviet

correspondents, giving us their observations on the recent elections and also as to the outcome or the results of this fateful election coming in June of 1996.

Northstar Compass readers know our position regarding the composition of the Duma, its weaknesses and possible strong points, seeing that Gennady Zyuganov of the Communist Party of Russian Federation is the election winner in the Duma.

We see shifting of positions by Yeltsin and company, trying desperately to make quick band-aid changes to try and gain support among Russian voters – knowing full well that he and his Western backers received a kick in the rear by the results of the last December elections to the Duma.

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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.

Opinions expressed by writers to NSC are not necessarily those of the publication.

NORTHSTAR COMPASS

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CHUCKLE CORNER

We have a Humane Society for Animals. Would it not be desirable to have a Humane Society for Humans? We certainly are not getting it under the present governments.

Church of Scientology (a fundamentalist cult religious order, with a fantastic bank account) has asked our Northstar Compass to exchange publications. We have a better proposal ... let us exchange our Bank Accounts instead!

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

WHAT HAS YELTSIN DONE SINCE DECEMBER TO BUTTRESS HIS POSITION?

- He has unleashed another bloody massacre in Chechniya, to show that Russia will not be shamed. In this way, he will try to get votes from Zhirinovsky's Nationalistic Block, plus other bourgeoisie parties. He stresses the 'Great Russian Nation' chauvinism; in this, the Russian Orthodox Church has thrown him their support.
- He has dismissed his Foreign Minister, made internal shuffles in his government – trying to show that he is willing to save the "nation" and that he is the "man of the people"!
- Stories inside the government controlled mass media are now daily full of stories about ... "Chechens are our enemies", "we have a century of troubles with these Chechens", etc. These are, of course, lies and half-truths meant to inflame nationalism and chauvinism.
- There is not one item lately in the Russian press to show that behind all of this "war in Chechniya" is OIL and American interests that will do all in their power to inflame this region, hoping that Yeltsin, in pacifying this region, will guarantee the flow of oil from this fabulous rich oil reserve for Chevron Oil and other transnational corporations that are involved.
- Taking of hostages, killings is deplorable on both sides. All of this surely should be understood by people, that reaction brings counterreaction.

There is extreme danger that the whole of the Caucasus will be embroiled in this civil war. Only Socialism and the resurrection of the Soviet Union will solve this problem.

• Will Yeltsin face a nonconfidence vote in the Duma? Will Gennady Zyuganov of the CPRF have the courage to press for this? Or does Zyuganov know that Yeltsin has veto power and can dismiss the Duma or its decisions at will? Of course he does! Then, what is the idea behind this impossible manouver?

- We fear that Zyuganov, despite his rhetoric that "We have no confidence in this government. It only has a short time left in power" ... will try to pull strings behind the scenes rather than force a vote to crumble the cabinet five months before the elections.
- Zyuganov's priorities, according to Western media, are only these – "more social spending for the poor, slower market reform policies".

Not a word about resurrection of socialism, stopping the bloodshed not only in Chechniya but in other hot spots in Russia; not a word about getting rid of the present corrupt, mafia-infested circle around Yeltsin!

THE COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE NO POWER TO THWART THE GOVERNMENT, MUCH LESS ADVOCATE A RETURN TO SOVIET UNION OR SOCIALISM!

Yeltsin in the last while (if that could be possible – Editors) has shifted his politics to extreme right. This is more than just a tactical move. This, of course, pleases Washington.

We all should realize the fact – if we haven't already – U.S. Imperialism, through the United Nations Organization; International Monetary Fund; European Union; NATO; Partnership For Peace; plus the U.S. promoted, supported Evangelical Crusade into former Soviet Union – all these movements, organizations and pacts are designed to completely undermine any vestiges of socialism in their path!

Millions of bibles are poured into the former USSR, immense wealth

of the West is given to build churches, monasteries, religious newspapers and printing shops.

Do not think that all this effort does not produce results!

This colossal undermining of other countries is affecting the standard of living in the West also. Our social benefits are being trimmed devastatingly. Unemployment is growing, because the transnational corporations are pouring their money, investments to other underdeveloped Third World countries and former socialist countries in order to get cheap labour, maximum profits and to break up trade unions in the West and lower the standard of living. The working class of Western capitalist countries are paying and will pay an enormous price for this robbery monopolistic greed.

Will the scores of Communist and Bolshevik parties now vying for position in Russia, have the Marxist-Leninist understanding and courage to fuse together a Communist Block that surely can defeat Yeltsin at the June elections?

Will there appear a strong candidate that will be able to unite all of the left forces into a mighty machine in four months? Will this leader, if elected to the Presidency, have the courage to then eliminate the "presidency" and take steps towards the unifying of the country and a return to Socialism?

These 4 months are crucial not only for the Russian people, for that Soviet people, but asse Minister mankind. There issed the notion need for a Soviet Unt of NATO to the able to be a fortre nuclear weapons buffer against Impused to get into it by the United States. alone. Denial is RUSSIA IS ONING the leaders of OF CHANGE, O' of them are DEATH STRUCeal consequences of the most of Central Europe

TO ALL READERS OF NSC AND MEMBERS OF CFSP!

With this issue of NSC we are informing you that it might be necessary to publish only 6 issues of Northstar Compass per year as a temporary measure due to financial problems.

As you are aware, \$20.00 subscription per 12 issues does not cover postage and typesetting, not the problem and help us publish to speak of printing, collating and stapling.

Postage overseas has gone up drastically. To send the issues to former Soviet Union, the cost per 36 pager is sometimes \$3.50 per envelope. The Soviet people want to receive our NSC regularly, judging by the use they make of our publication in their anti-Yeltsin press!

receives a wage, all work is done voluntarily and the premises are free for our use. We keep our GENEROSITY! expenses to the bare minimum as you are aware.

We cannot approach the few generous members who always donate every time we ask them to. We did make an appeal named "Dr. A.J. Thut Sustaining Fund" which produced a sum that kept us going until now.

IN ORDER FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS TO PUBLISH AS IT DID REGULARLY IN 32-36 PAGES, WE **NEED \$24,000 PER YEAR!**

We are asking you to realize regularly.

With the situation in the former USSR coming to the crossroads at the forthcoming June election for the presidency of Russia, news and articles to our desk are coming in ever-increasing volume. This would need at least a 36 to 42 page issue per month to cover all the tremendously important materials that we receive. Unfortunately, we cannot include No one in the Editorial Board these articles if we would have to publish every 2 months!

WE DEPEND UPON YOUR

- Yours, Dr. A.J. Thut, Honorary Chairman Michael Lucas, President-Editor Professor Michael Ukas Andy Durovecz Dr. Angelo D'Angelo, USA

EXPORTS UP, TEMPERS, TOO:

American business is miffed because Japan's trade surplus has risen again. Seems those sneaky Nips are raking in too much money, cuss 'em! And here, all these years, I'd thought making money is what capitalism is all about.

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From: "MAIL STAR" Halifax, Nova Scotia

WHEN BUSINESS CALLS SHOTS, PEOPLE A NUISANCE

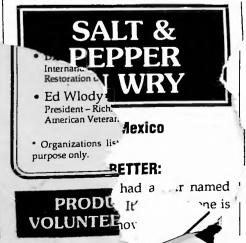
By: Harry Bruce

As multinational corporations grow more powerful than entire nations, governments are losing their ability to govern. What we are facing is not so much anarchy as rule by people we do not know, people we have not voted into office, people who care little about us or the common good.

"The state is withering and global business is taking charge," Michael Hirsch writes in Newsweek, an organ not noted for ringing leftist alarms. Hirsch sees a decline in the potency of both nation-states and bodies like the European Union, NATO, the UN, and the International Monetary Fund.

"Into this world disorder," writes Anthony Giddens in The Observer of London, "step the multinational corporations and the rootless managerial and financial elites linked to them. Global corporations ... are gigantic. The assets of the largest U.S. company, General Electric, at \$251 billion US, are greater than those of all but 10 nation states. Through contracting out much of their work, the multinationals have created a stateless web of corporate alliances, and are even more difficult for states to control as a result."

Just 10 corporations – six in Japan,



three in the U.S., and the Royal Dutchshell Group of Britain and the Netherlands – earned revenues in 1994 that totalled nearly \$1.5 trillion US. General Motors and Ford Motor together employ more than a million workers.

When multinationals abandon factories in one country to exploit low wages in another, or introduce technology that enables them to dismiss tens of thousands of long-time employees, their executives often seem unmoved by the widespread misery they create.

In the London Review of Books, Edward Luttwak describes a new kind of management fashion – "a suitably desexed North American version of machismo: the cult of the 'tough' executive who fires his subordinates without sentiment or hesitation."

We could once count on governments to help the fired, under-employed and otherwise hard-up, but in the holy cause of The Balanced Budget – down on your knees, everybody – Big Business pressures politicians to drop from their agendas anything so wasteful as compassion.

When you combine huge concentrations of business power with the arrival of 24-hour global money markets, new communications technology, and the clout of bond dealers, what happens to governments? In the bleak prediction of Newsweek's Hirsch, they just have to "get used to being out of the way, rather than being in charge."

Economist Jeff Faux, president of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, calls both the Republican and Democratic parties "wards of Wall Street." Bond markets, he says, are obsessed with fiscal conservatism, and that's "where a lot of pressure for a balanced budget comes from."

President Clinton, Faux argues, has nobody who "can stand up to the Wall Street view of the world."

Almost a year has passed since the Canadian government discovered it had no one who could stand up to Moody's Investors Service Inc. That's the U.S. creditrating agency that, in the words of Thomas L. Friedman of The New York Times, "signals the electronic herd of global investors where to plunk down their money, by telling them which country's bonds are blue-chip and which are junk."

Shortly before Prime Minister Chretien unveiled a 1995 budget that included measures to slow the decline of the Canadian dollar, Moody's declared the proposed remedies insufficient and put Canada's debt rating under review. Rumors of a down-grading triggered a major sell-off of Canadian dollars and bonds. Reform Leader Preston Manning sneered that Moody's was telling Chretien his targets were unacceptable, but as Friedman wrote, "They are also telling him who's the boss."

I don't want "the man from Moody's" bossing Canada, or multinational corporations deciding which governments should balance their budgets, and how fast. As 1996 gathers steam, it's heartening to read that more and more Canadians and Americans are attacking the whole idea that huge, mindless slashing of government spending will guarantee our descendants heaven on earth.

Washington economist Faux says, "It's a terrible mistake to be so obsessed with this deficit issue that it obscures the larger questions of how the economy grows, and the need for investing in infrastructure

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUB?

and human capital in order to give our children the tools they need to compete and make it in the world."

Even Wall-Street may be smartening up. The venerable New York investment firm, Morgan Stanley, recently warned its clients, "The so-called majority of public opinions in favor of deficit reduction and its associated dismantling of entitlement spending – is about to be drowned out by a groundswell of worker backlash. Workers want more, not less."

Governments must be in to consult one another on how to set up international controls over the behavior of multinational corporations. To regain authority, they must regain the conviction that it's their job to look after not just dollars, but people. All kinds of people.

Progressive movements all over the world have been stating this cardinal fact for years. It is refreshing sometimes to hear it from the other side of the "fence" so to speak. Of course Harry Bruce is not suggesting replacing capitalism with socialism to be sure!

From:
"THE NATION"
Sevestapol

EAST EMBRACED IN NATO'S ARMS

Daniel T. Plesh and Sami Fournier

"Perfect idiocy". With that phrase German Defense Minister Volker Rühe dismissed the notion that an enlargement of NATO to the east might mean nuclear weapons in Poland. He refused to get into it further. He is not alone. Denial is all the rage among the leaders of NATO. None of them are considering the real consequences of the integration of Central Europe

into the Western military alliance, a move that is likely to cause increased militarization – both nuclear and conventional – of an already historically overarmed region.

Without public deliberation, the Clinton Administration took the first steps toward NATO expansion with its euphemistically named 1994 Partnership for Peace program. The Republicans are still chiding the President for going too slow. Meanwhile, trouble has already begun. A combination delaying tactic and clever marketing strategy, P.F.P. involves twenty-six Central and Eastern European states and Russia. The former Soviet sattelites see the program as a proving ground for NATO membership. Russia sees it as a concession made for a longer lagtime on the expansion decision. Each "partner" has signed three separate agreements with NATO. Despite vows of transparency, all P.F.P. nations, with the exception of Hungary, have kept some of the documents secret from their respective publics. Under these agreements the partners promise to meet civil-military criteria and reduce ethnic conflict in exchange for assistance with the modernization of their armed forces.

But in the name of bringing eastern militaries up to NATO speed, P.F.P. allows the United States to arm Central Europe. The United States is having its cake and eating it: legitimizing new markets for its weapons while refusing to use P.F.P. as an arms control mechanism. Along with the NATO Participation Act of 1994, broadened by the Senate in a recent amendment, P.F.P. facilitates both the provision and purchase of weaponry by eastern countries. Excess U.S. F-16A/B fighter planes

are set to be given to Poland. The Czech Republic is being offered an undisclosed number of F-16 and F-18 fighters, and Romania has announced that it will manufacture ninety-six Cobra attack helicopters under license from the United States.

"It is like drug dealers - first you give it to the kids for free," a senior Polish official remarked. Because P.F.P. countries lack the financial resources to make "off the shelf" purchases of high-tech Western weapons, initial transfers are likely to be heavily subsidized by the United States. Congress can accomplish this through military assistance programs, and the Pentagon has designated military equipment that can be written off. In time, however, these countries are expected to become paying customers.

In fact, widening its arms market is the only apparent advantage to the West of expanding NATO, since no military threat exists to guide policy. With more than 350 used F-16 fighter aircraft on hand, the U.S. Air Force wants to peddle these abroad, using the proceeds to modernize its own forces, which in turn will buoy the U.S. aerospace industry. Other transfers in the pipeline include sales or leases of C-130 transport planes and E-2 early warning aircraft.

None of this comes cheap for the West, either. While the allies currently spend about \$1 billion on NATO administration, the cost of expansion will be at least ten times that, on top of the planned \$2 billion deployment in Bosnia. Costs will include establishing headquarters in the territory of new members, as well as positioning equipment and forces. The RAND Corporation estimates that installing NATO infrastructure in four countries will require an alliance-wide outlay of

\$10 billion to \$50 billion, depending on how modern Eastern European militaries want to be. So far, NATO has failed to produce any cost-benefit analysis. These sums far exceed aid to Russia.

Expansion advocates have also ignored the fact that if NATO follows current doctrine, the United States and Britain would be requested to designate nuclear weapons for the defense of, say, Warsaw and Prague.

Northstar Compass has been stating this cardinal truth since its inception 3 1/2 years ago! The purpose of destabilization and eventual temporary disintegration of the former socialist countries, as prescribed by Allan Dulles and the CIA, was meant to make certain that NATO expands as far east as possible.

When an authoritative publication such as The Nation states it as this article does, what else can be written to prove that our prediction was correct?

Material supplied by Ray Stevenson

From Newspaper: "THE TIMES (LONDON)"

SAFETY FIRST

The Familiar Fears of Ordinary Russians

Beware the friendly Russian couple who proffer a welcoming glass of vodka. Too often nowadays, as our correspondent Thomas de Waal learnt to his cost, the gesture turns out to be a criminal, if not murderous, attempt to poison and rob the innocent tourist. Spiking drinks now, it seems, anyone can buy, over the counter, a drug that lowers blood pressure and renders

GET YOUR FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO NORTHSTAR COMPASS! tthe unwitting victim virtually comatose. Our correspondent, fit, experienced and quick-thinking, was lucky and escaped with his life, if not his wallet. Hundreds of foreigners, however, are now the target of frequent attacks: muggings, assault and even being gassed in their berths by gangs working Russia's overnight trains.

Parts of Moscow are now virtually no-go areas. Muscovites warn foreigners to beware of the main railway stations or bridges where gangs of gypsies lie in wait for those who look as though they may be carrying dollars, marks and the like. Westerners have been

deserting restaurants in droves after a spate of gangland killings: in one recent incident a British businessman was wounded when gunmen burst in and opened fire. The police, lazy and corrupt or struggling against insurmountable odds, are of little use: an intimidating warning not to pursue the case or a shrug of despair is often the response.

No wonder Russia's fledgeling tourist industry is in danger of collapse. The horror stories multiply in the retelling: mafiacontrolled hotels where guests have to run the gauntlet of leather-jacketed louts in the lobby; deregulated

internal airlines where the safety record is as appalling as the service; currency fraud, cheating and incomprehensible bureaucracy that could be plain incompetence but is more likely to be criminal in its intention.

Tourists, however, are only the occasional witnesses to a crime wave that has engulfed Russia. Resident businessmen have to struggle against corruption and attempted extortion everyday, and nowadays only the hardened are willing to brave the harassments of daily life and the obstruction of officials who regard Western investors as mulch cows for their

PROTEST PUT DOWN: Israeli soldiers subdue a Palestinian at Nablus. Many were wounded in clashes on the sixth anniversary of four leaders of the PLO Fatah Black Panther faction.



personal profit. The real victims are the Russians themselves: the millions who see their meagre pensions or small salaries disappear into the pockets of racketeers; the struggling entrepreneur who has to pay protection money; the gullible consumer who loses his life's savings to those promising instant wealth from bogus investments.

Crime is now the main concern of Russian voters. It is also the main reason why the Communists are now far ahead in the opinion polls, with some 22 percent of the The Communists are deliberately harking back to an earlier age of law and order. Even some victims of the old system look back to a time when the streets were The Government also promises a law and order campaign, but its record inspires no confidence. The candidate best placed to take advantage of this clamour is Aleksandr Lebed, the general. charismatic former Russians want a strong man to take strong measures. Sadly, anyone living in Moscow now has to agree that without the smack of firm government, reform will be strangled by the criminals exploiting Russia's new freedoms.

SEVEN WEEKS AND \$2,000 TO REGISTER A CAR

An article by Miranda Anichkina in The Times of London newspaper outlines all the horrific mafiacontrolled agencies of the present Yeltsin government. As an official correspondent, resident in Moscow on assignment, having to drive a car, she went to get it registered. The long story that she tells is beyond belief – kickbacks; money under the table; daily changes of laws and

procedures; mafia protection money at every turn. So ... \$2,000 dollars and seven weeks later, she finally got her registration.

Even beggars on the Metro platforms have to pay protection money to the mafia, whom "militia" somehow never seem to arrest or make them go to court.

Her remark summarizes the present situation: "You simply cannot escape Russia's corruption. Whatever your personal situation or level within society, you are dragged into the web of corruption without any means of redress."

DEAR READER: All newspapers that are anti-Soviet, anti-socialist and are in favour of the present Yeltsin regime in former USSR, report these horrific stories that are the daily life of Soviet people! But, it is a question that bothers the minds of people as to why these writers, correspondents do not draw the proper conclusion and ask a question of their own Governments as to why the people's tax dollars are going to support such a leader as Yeltsin?

The answer is obvious of course: their own newspapers would not allow them to write such pointed questions, and what about the Western businessmen who go on these "Government Visits" to Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and the Third World countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand and others? These "businessmen", under the tutelage of their own governments, are going in order to get cheap production facilities, cheap labour and thus drive the wage earnings of Canadians, Americans and other "civilized-developed countries" down.

We wonder whether our own Canadian Prime Minister Chretien, when visiting Bangladesh, India and others, did he ever demand that the owners of those factories stop using CHILD LABOUR?

But of course, such pertinent questions would not do! After all, it's

the Maximum Profit For Minimum Expense that guides "democratic capitalism"!

Thanks to Lloyd Redstone for these materials.

UGLY CAPITALISM

Our Northstar Compass can certainly be accused of favouring a return of socialism to the former Soviet Union. Of course we cannot deny this at all. As a matter of fact, this is what we strive for in our policy to bring our reader the news exactly as to what this "ugly capitalism" did bring and is bringing to the workers of former USSR.

It is always interesting that columnists for the daily bourgeois press sometimes say exactly the same thing as we do ... you would think that they work underground for Northstar Compass!

Here are some quotes gathered from daily newspapers – we couldn't do it better ourselves.

- "The commies are coming, the commies are coming! The fax machines are overloaded by panicky foreign correspondents."
- "It is a fact that Russians are extremely unhappy with capitalism!"
- In Poland Lech Walesa bit the dust, with a former Communist becoming President."
- Capitalism works appallingly badly in human terms."

(My shattered nerves ... can this be a capitalist saying this? What would NATO leaders do with this columnist – banish him to the long unemployment lines? – Editors)

• Russia today is in that phase of capitalism when it's fine to send 12-year old boys down to the mines, and the girls most certain to be used as prostitutes. Crime, corruption, obscene gaps in incomes, abject poverty."

(We are shocked that a capitalist, anti-communist Richard Gwyn of the

Toronto Star would say things like that! After all, you can't do that! This is our line that you have stolen! You should be writing for Northstar Compass or for any of the scores of Communist newspapers in Russia!)

• "Former 'communist apparatchiks' have gone to the top as 'businessmen'. They got privatized industries at bargain basement prices. They get cheap credits at the banks, get unrestricted access to raw materials and untendered government contacts."

(We're wondering what our Western capitalists are thinking. They must be green with envy.)

• "Zyuganov will certainly not do much to make capitalism's face a little more human."

(We congratulate Richard Gwyn in calling it as it is. WE also stressed our doubts about the influence that the Duma will have on Yeltsin's government. It is more of a debating club than a decision making apparatus.)

• "There was something politically incorrect in Zhirinovsky's ribald TV commercials that used strippers to emphasize his sexuality."

(But dear Mr. Gwyn! Do you not realize the millions of dollars we of the West gave candidates such as Zhirinovsky and others to do exactly as they did? Now we're trying to be so nice and proper? We paid the piper in order that Zhirinovsky would play the tune.)

- "Duma is nothing more than a 'talking shop'. Almost all power resides in the presidency."
- "The very fact that Communists could do so well is healthy and democratic!"

(This is just too much for us to hear! But Mr. Gwyn does not really believe this at all. He certainly should know that the other Communist-Bolshevik parties that were running in the Russian elections could not get ANY TV air time at all. Why? Mostly because of finances and in many cases,

they were barred. So ... please, let's not throw this word "democracy" around too much ... it has already lost its meaning!)

• "Present businessmen created and funded their chosen parties – and there were 43 parties on the election ticket. They fund them to get a seat in the Duma. Once they are there, they enjoy parliamentary immunity from prosecution for their corporate misdeeds."

(Well Mr. Gwyn, you amaze us to such an extent by your last statement, we at the Northstar Compass have decided to invite you to write for us – mind you, you only might get a free coffee now and then!)

RUSSIAN JOURNALISTS FACE BOMBS, BEATINGS, BRIBES

Olivia Ward, writing from Moscow for the Toronto Star, reported this piece of "democratic capitalism of Yeltsin".

"Last year 26 journalists died in incidents ranging from skirmishes to high profile professional slayings. Another 300 were harassed, kidnapped, beaten up and intimidated in their work."

(And yet, we the taxpayers in the capitalist world are paying for these crimes by having our governments lavishly supporting these gangstersmafia government that is ruling former Soviet Union. The tragedy is that we are made to accept this state of affairs by the lies rammed down our throats that these are growing pains of "private enterprise and democracy"!)

FLIP SIDE OF FREEDOM

A very interesting article by Linnet Myers based in Warsaw, Poland explains the horrendous tragedy that has befallen former socialist countries.

"Anti-communist leaders that are now in power, when they

gained power, the first thing they did was release all prisoners from jail. They fired the police personnel, cut their budgets.

They opened up the borders, allowing in weapons and international criminals. Organized crime started to flourish.

POLAND: Crime and murder has increased by 100%.

HUNGARY: Crime rate has soared beyond expectation. There are more and more very serious crimes.

POLAND: The number of suicides in Poland has reached an all time high. Birth rate is the lowest since Second World War. Alcohol consumption has risen by 200%.

CZECH and SLOVAK REPUBLICS: Present leaders gave amnesties to all the criminal elements after they took power. Guns are being smuggled into the country.

HUNGARY: Sophisticated crime syndicates are operating all over former socialist countries, with ties to international crime rings. This is the hub of criminal activity.

'You can say a lot of negative things about communism, but that system didn't produce underclass', said the President Kwasniewski of Poland."

(Well ... when the class enemy tells it like it is, you must give them credit. After all, you cannot hide the truth forever. People are suffering and that is why, sooner or later, socialism will return to these countries.

CAPITALISM HAS PROVEN THAT IT DOES NOT WORK!

DID YOU DONATE TO SUSTAINING FUND?

ITEMS FROM ABROAD

From Our New Correspondent: "FRONT OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH" Moscow

MOSCOW YOUTH IS UNIFYING AND PROTESTING

By: Olga Kazarian

At the end of last September, there took place a meeting and a conference of all the leaders of leftwing youth organizations of Moscow. It was decided at the conference to establish the Front of Revolutionary Youth (FRY). Into



this FRY, there were accepted the following youth organizations: Russian Communist Workers Party Youth Section; Union "Student's Defense", Russian Communist Union of Youth (Moscow Section), Youth of "Workers Russia", All Union Communist Workers Youth Guard Bolsheviks, The Initiative of Revolutionary Anarcho-Communists.

On October 14th, there took place a student protest on the

Ernest Tiulman Square as the first major event of the FRY. The theme and slogan of the meeting was: "Regime of Yeltsin-Chernomydrin policies are anti-youth – the only alternative is through a revolution, towards socialism".

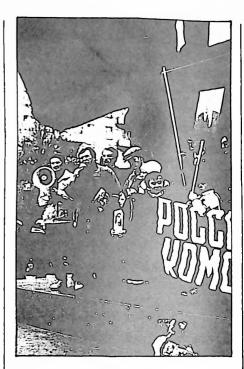
With a very warm, forceful and excellent speech to the gathered protesting youth spoke a member of the coordinating committee of FRY, member of the Moscow youth organization of the Russian Communist Workers Party, Victor Tabolin. Among other things, he said:

- Friends! The autumn conscription is coming for the Army. Again, the slogan and agitational harangue from the Yeltsin government is to "conscript students into the army". Tomorrow, there will be a campaign to conscript. What awaits the youth?

Is it to fulfill your citizen's duty? No!

THIS army and the understanding of a citizen's duty—they cannot be looked upon as the same! Three years of this Russian Army's existence is nothing to be proud of, killings and robbery.

The command to the officers, men and generals to save the Motherland in 1991 after the Agreement Belovezh unlawfully signed, was met with indifference and quiet - they agreed with the dismemberment of the USSR; in 1992, these prostitutes in soldiers' boots, forgot what they vowed to defend by swearing allegiance to the new bourgeois masters; in October of 1993, our "fathers-commanders", did not know what to do and were swaying from one side to the other, but in the end they fulfilled the command to shell with cannons and tanks the Supreme Russian Soviet building in Moscow with thousands of deaths on their hands; they in effect



bombarded the Constitution. Today, this army is thrown into Chechniya to kill defenseless people, including Russians and former Soviet citizens. Who in their right mind would want to give allegiance to such an Army or to such a Commander-in-Chief?

The mass media, in the hands of the government clique, shouts that the Russian Army is defending the Motherland! This is an absolute lie!

THIS army cannot defend the Motherland – impossible!

The liquidation of the contemporary defense capabilities and potential, the self liquidation of our defenses in Europe and the Baltics, being forced to run away from "winter quarters" to deep inside Russia, into "tents" and backward-built quarters for the demobilized soldiers – this is the "peoples army"? This is the result of the traitorous acts by the top echelons of the Russian Army on orders from Yeltsin and company.

Who in their right mind would want to serve under these "defenders of the Motherland"?

We are told that the Army is a

school of manhood, bravery, glory! NEVER!

To liquidate with rockets houses, factories, peaceful population of Russian-Soviet peoples – this is not bravery!

To be ready to murder people of your own country under the command of the usurper-president – in the capital city or on the outskirts of Russia – you do not need bravery for this carnage.

To be buried yourself on the territory of your neighbours or to become an invalid in defense of the present regime, this is adventurism – this is not glory!

Remember, that you have only one life to live. And even two years of your life – is too dear to give as a gift to the present regime to fulfill their plans.

Unite your voices with those of the anti-war protests! Army of Yeltsin-Grachev we will not give anymore cannon fodder!

The gathered hundreds chanted:

- FOR STUDENTS - PEACE - MOBILIZATION NOTICE - TO THE MARSHALLING YARD!

Among other speakers at this manifestation was Victor Anpilov from "Workers Russia".

This protest demonstration lasted over one hour and was attended by over 500 young people. □

From:

SOVIET INFORMBUREAU

A letter signed by A.G. Kozlobaev, Chairman of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of USSR, informs Northstar Compass and members of the Canadian Friends of Soviet People, that a Congress of Citizens of USSR took place in Moscow on October 29, 1995 at which, the following documents and declarations were adopted unanimously.

This is a Soviet Union-wide organization that legally exists and fights against the illegal dismemberment of the USSR, therefore, the citizens of former Soviet Union are still citizens of the USSR, according to all legal statutes of the Constitution and of International Laws as are enshrined in the United Nations Chapter.

We cannot reprint all the documents in full that were adopted by this Peoples Congress – we will just print a synopsis of the main points.

DECLARATION OF CONGRESS OF CITIZENS OF USSR

- 1. This declaration is adopted.
- 2. We struggle for the resurrection of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 3. This Declaration is to be brought before the world court, to progressive mankind who are friends of Soviet people.

ELECTIONS OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR

1. Congress to elect the Supreme Soviet from delegates here representing all regions.

- 2. Two delegates to be elected from all regions of each former Republic.
- 3. Supreme Soviet will be guided in its work by Section 73/108 of the Constitution of USSR which, according to International Laws, is still binding.
- ELECTION OF CITIZENS IN LOCALITIES TO ESTABLISH SOVIET POWER.
- ELECTION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION OF USSR BASING THEMSELVES ON THE LEGAL 1977 CONSTITUTION.
- DECISION TO ADOPT AS ITS OFFICIAL ORGAN THE NEWSPAPER "SOVIET INFORMBUREAU".
- SUPREME SOVIET ADOPTED A PROTEST

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO REMEMBER!

Coal miners in Russia, Ukraine and other parts of Soviet Union gave Boris (Vodka) Yeltsin a birthday present that he will not forget. They struck by hundreds of thousands in protest against the policy of the present regime!

They demanded back pay (some miners did not get paid for 3-4 months) besides a stop to privatization and foreign ownership. They went back to work, but the spark started a flame that will keep on burning.

We hope that these protests become a whirlwind that will get rid of the present mafia in government and that this tornado will sweep these traitors unto the ash heap of history!





TO LIBERATE POLITICAL PRISONERS ON THE TERRITORY OF FORMER USSR.

- APPEAL TO ALL COMMUNISTS OF SOVIET UNION. This appeal urges ALL Communists to unite into a one mighty Communist Party.
- CONGRESS OF CITIZENS **USSR** OF PROTESTS AS ILLEGAL THE BYELOVEZH AGREEMENT. WHICH WENT AGAINST THE RESULTS OF REFERENDUM OF MARCH 17, 1991 WHERE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SOVIET CITIZENS VOTED TO SAVE THE USSR.

PROFESSOR VLADIMIR Herasymchuk



SOCIALISM OR COMMUNISM?

I'm writing this article because of a discussion I had with a colleague

of mine. "I'm in full agreement with and for Socialism - but I am opposed to Communism!" Is this not an absurd comparison? The meaning of both of these words is the same people's control over the means of production, struggle for betterment for mankind in material and cultural needs. You cannot just dismiss this absurd understanding by some people. This counter-posing of socialism to communism is not only done by some people, but also by some communist and socialist parties. Why is this taken up as an armed defense by some of the "left" parties (in reality - opportunistic parties) in the former USSR, but also in foreign countries. Therefore, we feel that we should express our opinions on this vital question for our foreign readers.

HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS PHENOMENA OF ANTI-COMMUNISM FROM A POSITION OF SOCIALISM?

There are two main reasons. First of them is – aim of apologists for Imperialism to sow among the people the idea that communism is a foreign idea - a utopia. Second reason - not enough factual information about the meaning, the aims and the program of the communist revolution. Therefore, many look at the Marxist-Leninist teachings as a fairy tale. They reason in this way - bought yourself today a suit or shoes? Tomorrow, when they will announce "communism" you will go to any store - magazine of your choice, will take anything that your heart desires, with no cost paid. Aside from that, everything then will belong to everyone. You will not own anything yourself as personal! As you can see, it serves someone's purpose to spread these fairy tales about "communist" society.

In reality, the Bolshevik ideas have nothing in common with this. They are more realistic. The products and the machinery that make these products should belong to the people. The main aim of people should be work for the benefit of himself and society at large. This idea and dedication will guarantee all the goods that society needs. Socialism and communism – is not utopia. These are the economic laws that guide countries and people.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT COMMUNISM WILL CHANGE THE WORLD?

It is a fact that as more and more technical, scientific learning and inventions play a role in people's lives, it becomes more and more a collective effort. The production machinery and products are more and more in the hands of private owners. As an example, in Novo-Volynsk (Western Ukraine) there are working thousands of coal miners. But now there is planned a privatization of this immense industry. What does this mean – the production of coal will belong to capitalists. They will decide what to do with it, decide what price to charge for coal. All are working, while only one owns the product. Even now, these mafiosi are being called the "New Ukrainians", representing only 1/20th of the population, but they control over 40% of national earnings. Criminal capital of Ukraine has robbed the people of over 1 billion dollars.

All this is from the backs of workers. Therefore, social unrest is beginning to fester. This cannot continue forever. No, it cannot! The discontent of the people is leading to revolt.

BUT CAN'T THESE PROBLEMS BE DECIDED PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT ANY REVOLUTIONS?

CAN'T WE BUILD SOCIALISM ON THE BASIS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE-OWNERSHIP?

Some political parties, considering themselves "left". answer "Yes, this is the way". Then let us ask you the question – whom does private enterprise serve? Are there any instances in history where private ownership served anyone else except the owner? Your answer is absurd. It's a fact, that it's my land, my clothes, my factory serves only me, your clothes are yours, my products are mine. Private enterprise is under the control and ownership of the owner, while collective ownership – belongs to the collective. Therefore, to go to socialism through private ownership of production and products - this is utopia. This is the basis of the bourgeois society.

Therefore, a socialist revolution in the end guarantees the people's ownership of the means of production and products. Those that do not believe and understand this cannot be called either communists or socialists. The property of the country that belongs to all the people, industrial and agricultural, these are the basis on which socialism and communism will be built. Therefore, the highest stage of socialism (communism) is the desire to more and more manufacture and distribute the products to all the people for their well being.

CAN A COUNTRY BUILDING SOCIALISM, CAN IT GUARANTEE ALL THE NECESSITIES TO ITS CITIZENS?

Of course it cannot at the start. Because the manufacturing and distribution strength of capitalism at that junction are still not capable to guarantee this. The economic might has to be enlarged and expanded.

Workers, starting on the road to socialism, are forced to produce for their own needs. Besides this, as happened with the USSR, the capitalist encirclement, sabotage, internal and external enemies force the state to assign certain finances for its defence. Therefore, the communist reconstruction has to go through the transitional system which is socialism. The main aim of socialism is "from each according to his ability to each according to his worth."

THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNISM ARE ALREADY INHERENT AND FORWIALIZED IN THE FIRST STAGES OF SOCIALISM

Soviet people well remember that when USSR was in existence, the government charged only symbolic kopeks for bread, very cheap agricultural products, children's clothing and other items for children. After the war years, during reconstruction, bread and meals in school cafeterias were free. This saved in those terrible post-war years millions of people. Only symbolic payment was paid for living quarters. Every year prices were being lowered on every product. Free education and health care. Right to work and leisure. Are these not the principles of communism? Did all this not give an opportunity for each person's development? In the USSR, communism was beginning to be seen and felt in the lives of all the people regularly. We were living in some aspects of communism.

About the tremendous growth of land of the Soviets can be judged even by growth of education and cultural understanding of the population. In the Ukraine, before the revolution of 1917, 3/4 of its people could not read or write. On its territories, there were only 19

colleges, 577 high schools and 341 public schools. None of these schools was taught in the Ukrainian language.

Already in 1939, there were existing 173 colleges, 4,400 high schools, plus 11,000 public schools. The teaching was in most cases in the Ukrainian language. During the middle 1980's, 85% of our youth had finished High School and College. Everyone knows that Ukraine, as other former Soviet Republics, would have been even further ahead if our "present friends" – Imperialists – did not hamper our progress, or the modern day "pseudo-democrats".

NEVERTHELESS ... the ruling party-government elite, whom the Soviet people believed, showed themselves to be traitors. They now have become "social democrats" and are busy selling and raping the country. Even during the present economic hardships, the Soviet people are true to socialism and communism.

In conclusion, it is again necessary to state that socialism and communist are synonymous of the same society. To break them apart, to counterpose them against each other is only beneficial to the modern revisionists which is meant to do only one thing – to insert into socialism private ownership, thus trying to subvert the communist idea as a science and make it seem as utopia. This is also meant to enslave the working class with capitalist ideology hiding under socialist slogans.

From: "POSTMARK PRAHA" SLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN CLAIMS

After the fall of Czechoslovakia, Hungarian residents began to claim that in Slovakia the rights of the Hungarian national minority were not adequately protected. The numbers suggest otherwise. 10.7% of the population are Hungarian, while 11.3% of Slovakia's MPs are Hungarian: in round figures, 17.

The Hungarian community is served by two Hungarian theatres, 17 publishing houses, 26 newspapers, 403 nursery schools, 303 primary schools, and 106 secondary schools of various kinds. How many such facilities are available for use of Slovaks living in Hungary, it is impossible to say, because the Hungarian government does not produce similar data. Or maybe the time is coming when Slovakia will again be "Upper" Hungary and its capital city, Bratislava, renamed "Pozsony".

CHEAP LABOUR!

Cable TV is coming to Kladno, the steel and coal town 30 km west of Prague. The digging and cable laying is being done by Ukrainian labour. The men work in freezing temperatures and snow from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., non-stop, for 6,000 crowns a month – more than 1,000 crowns less than the national average. We know all this from a KSCM member who invited some of the Ukrainians into her home for a hot meal – their Czech bosses provide them with nothing.

One man explained to her that he has a family in Ukraine to support and in the absence of work there, he is obliged to work in the Czech Republic in these appalling conditions.

SPECIAL FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS

From Newspaper: "VOICE OF A COMMUNIST" Moscow

RUSSIA AT THE CROSSROADS!

Extensive coverage of the December elections in Russia was in this #36 issue. This is the newspaper of the Central Committee Union of Communists-CPSU.

Three authors from 3 different "left" parties give their opinions on the results.

We're quoting only excerpts from these interesting analyses.

RED RUSSIA, WHITE MOSCOW!

By Alexei Prigarin, Candidate of Economic Sciences, Member of Russian Communist Party – CPSU

Gaidar, former "darling of Yeltsin", outdid himself to such an extent that Hitler's Goebbels would have been envious. His main slogan was that "communists are to blame for all ills".

- It became obvious that Zhirinovsky is a friend of Yeltsin and in the last two years always supported Yeltsin's policies and will do so now!
- Majority of people voted for socialism as opposed to what they voted for in 1993.
- Regarding the "White Moscow", what can you expect? 30% of all capital is situated here, over 180,000 businesses exist in Moscow alone, thousands of "new Russians". Most of these "new Russians" make an average of 2 million rubles per month ... therefore, this is the base of the present bourgeois-mafia structures.
- The myth that Russia has only ONE communist party the CPRF as propagated by Zyuganov ... that myth could have been turned around, CPRF could have joined all other "left wing" parties in

one solid block, thus giving it the absolute majority in the DUMA.

• There are members in our party that state that we suffered a defeat. Yes, we did not break the "5% barrier" to get our representation in the Duma. But we eliminated the myth that only the CPRF exists! It is unfortunate that the Block "Communists-Workers Russia-for USSR" received only 4.6%.

In June of 1996, the candidate who will be supported by communists will win the presidential elections. But that does not in itself mean that Russia will go back to socialism. Unfortunately in all likelihood, the new president will try to accommodate the new bourgeoisie. Therefore, the main question of either Capitalism or Socialism will not be solved by the presidential elections.

December elections 1995 laid the foundation for the agony of the future. Another socialist revolution will have to take place.

WE ELECTED — WE'RE HAPPY, WE ADDED UP THE RESULTS — WE CRIED! WAS THIS FOR NOTHING ...

By Valerij Poguzov, Candidate of Economic Science, Member of Russian Communist Workers Party

It would be in place to congratulate ourselves at the results, but we are in hole where we were thrown by the democrats-party elite.

Our party, in existence for only 5 years, we could not have pretended to be a winning party, given all the problems of press, finances and problems that were encountered.

What are the actual results? The crisis saw voters leaving the right-wing parties and coming over to the

communists. Even Zyuganov changed his tactics, started to talk warmly about Lenin, October Revolution, appealing to the nationalists, to "Russia" to feelings of patriotism, instead to socialism. The defeat of "Russian nationalism" was a sign that people are concerned with economic problems above all.

Unfortunately, the people that voted for Zyuganov, unknowingly voted for a bitter enemy of communism ... they voted for opportunists.

Majority of members that constitute the CPRF are all former members of the CPSU since Kruschev's time. These members (now in the CPRF) have long ago stopped cleansing the party from opportunism. All of these people – they just switched, after they themselves decided to liquidate the CPSU!

Zyuganov, in order to get "respectability", signed up non-party figures such as Tuleev, Titov, (cosmonauts), religious leaders. These are the same voters who in their time voted for Yeltsin.

History has repeated itself. Former CPSU members who at the 28th Congress of CPSU voted to disband the CPSU. Zyuganov in his pre-election speech said that the "Soviet Union fell apart because of the monopoly of CPSU, monopoly on ownership of means of production and monopoly on truth!".

But it is a fact that this is the last convulsion of the former "apparatchiks of CPSU".

By having our RCWP not aligning themselves with Zyuganov proved correct and the voters knew the reasons and could distinguish where to vote.

If you take into account the millions of voters that voted for the RCWP in spite of disinformation, in spite of being barred to appear on TV and mass media, you can judge that

these voters are the ones that will change the country in the Presidential elections!

The results have opened a Pandora box that sees discussions, arguments, assessments and re-evaluations of the elections. The results are to be a schooling for those voters who thought that the election process will settle all of the pressing problems. They are beginning to understand more fully the illusion of parliamentary elections which are not the means by which socialism and Soviet Union will be resurrected!

THE LEFT FORCES WON! WHAT'S NEXT?

By Boris Slavin, Doctor of Philosophy, Member of Communist Party Russian Federation

First of all, communists won a victory. Not only the CPRF which received 22% of votes, but we must also understand the millions of voters that voted for the "real opposition" – "Communists - Workers Russia - For Soviet Union" ... More than 3 million voters voted for this block. The undemocratic laws that we have, plus manipulations and skulduggery in votes should tell us that millions more votes are possible.

If we add to these figures the left votes received by the Agrarian Party, "Power to the People" – a left of centre party, the left block can have an absolute majority in the Duma.

The left parties such as "Congress of Russian Women" and Party of Self Government of Workers (basically an Anarchist oriented party) received close to 5% of votes each, thus making certain that unity could be achieved, the absolute control by left forces of the future destiny of Russia would be assured.

If we count that the so-called "left centre" parties received over 30,000,000 votes, there is a dire need of unity of ALL left forces. Gaidar and Yakovlev received a stunning defeat!

We must not overlook that the bourgeois parties together received close to 30% of votes combined. This force must be faced in the future.

The left forces that are in the Duma now must have a unity of purpose, program and tactics. This must be done quickly, before the presidential elections, so that the voters would see the real potential of winning. If we do not do this, we could very well become isolated.

Regarding the CPRF, the door is now open for advance, if we take that road. If we start to cooperate with the present regime, then we shall be accused – and rightly so – of opportunism. In my opinion, not one Communist in the Duma should accept any positions in the government. If they do, then the blame for the economic collapse that is coming will be on their shoulders. Let us remember that people voted for CPRF in order that they would fight for the interests of the working class.

There will not be many candidates for the presidency in June 1996. It looks that it might be only two candidates. This of course will be a candidate of the left and right forces. The left candidate can only win if he is able to unite ALL of the left forces around him and his policies. It is already known that the right wing will unite around one candidate, therefore, the left forces must do so as well. Otherwise, the historical chance will be missed by Soviet people as far as parliamentary means are concerned.

OUR COMMENT:

Our three writers, from three different "Communist parties", gave their interpretations of the results of the December elections to the Russian

In this section - "News from Abroad" - you will read other analyses and interpretations of this election.

You might be confused! Surely, you might wonder as to why such divergent views on a common problem - namely, getting rid of the present bourgeois-inafiosi-Yeltsin regime? It looks impossible, but it should be an easy road towards unity against the main enemy!

Northstar Compass has written and published over a period of 3 1/2 years the reasons this malaise of contradictory events and movements, starting from the time of the "first perestroichik" -Krushchev. This is 40 odd years that anti-socialist tendencies have been fed, nurtured, supported and now two generations later, the chickens have come home to roost!

One of the weaknesses of human nature and of left-wing parties in the capitalist countries - when observing the Soviet Union and the CPSU and now the post-disintegration of the USSR - is to find faults here and there, make assumptions as to how "we would do it", "we would not make this or that mistake". Other Communist parties in the world all of a sudden become "revolutionary experts" - as to what has or should be done!

The easiest thing in the world is to criticize the "other party in a comradely way".

But what about the "Communist Parties" in the capitalist countries? Have they got all the answers? Are they doing everything that is possible or should be done during these very dangerous times for the whole international working class? Are they doing all that is necessary in their own 16 country?

A question that must be asked is this:

Why are there sometimes two-threefour Communist-Marxist Parties in practically all countries of the world? Each one doing their own "revolution", but in no way is there movement for a United Front or unity of action! although there were 4 International meetings of parties so far, no unity has been achieved.

At the present time, in capitalist countries, there are parties that support either one or the other or a third Communist-Marxist varty or movement in the former Soviet Union. Why? There is a tendency in Western parties to put all of their eggs in the Communist Party of Russian Federation basket. Why? Is bigger better?

It seems that Northstar Compass tries to do the best of its abilities to present every aspect of revolutionary movement that exists in former USSR. We reprint from every movement, letting our readers have an overview of the political splits that are existing.

BUT, we shall not stray from a socialist path or from a correct evaluation of Stalin. We are doing this because we are dedicated to Soviet people and to the truth as presented by all the anti-Yeltsin forces in former USSR.

As you know and as we always stated ... WE ARE NOT A POLITICAL PARTY and never aspire to be one.

We hope that clears up some misconception held by some of our friends and our enemies.

- Editorial Board, NSC

TO OUR SOVIET FRIENDS: ARISE, YOU MIGHTY LAND!

OPEN FORUM

THE BLIND SEE; THE LAME WALK!

Many thanks for NSC for giving us news about the Soviet people according to the Soviet people themselves. In all the articles, one can see plainly or detect the influence of the USA elite in the present situation of the former Soviet Union. It is the same story in the history of the nations of Central and South America.

Consider the tiny country of Central America called Nicaragua. They killed and destroyed and terrorised its population for over seven years. They used the dictator Somoza's henchmen through payments, equipment and support to start the "contra" war against their own people. Hundreds of isolated men and women, such as teachers and health workers and poor innocent farmers, were kidnapped and forced to support these CIA directed attacks. I was there to observe it.

The Sandinista revolution was extremely popular. It was not a venture of the Communist party. Much less was it the work of the CIA. There were 5 Roman Catholic priests in prominent government positions. There were dozens of others, along with Protestant ministers, as well as many religious leaders involved in the success of the fighting and the social changes that followed. The poor who waged the war sang, with Latin American rhythm and silvery Spanish language: "The blind see, the lame walk. That's the way it is in Nicaragua!". These are words of the Christian gospel spoken by Jesus concerning what he himself was doing. I myself heard this joyful song in Nicaragua!

In December of 1985 or 1986, I recall the people saying that this Christmas there will be no bread nor pastries. (Wheat is not produced in Nicaragua.) A few days later, the people read in the local newspaper that countless tonnes of quality wheat and other edibles, along with toys and treats had arrived for the Christmas celebration of the Nicaraguan people. Who offered a helping hand to the suffering poor of Nicaragua? No, it was not the "Christian" leaders of the U.S.A., but rather, the atheists of the U.S.S.R.! You figure it out!

The U.S.A. attacks and the embargo against Nicaragua was so inhuman, unjust and cruel, that Oliver North, the manipulator of the funds that paid for this genocide, was brought to a mock trial by his own employers because of their public shame and embarrassment. Their cruelty and inhumanity was exposed. Indeed, this massive war crime was judged by the World Court as well. It found Reagan's racketeers guilty of causing this mafia-style war and was fined well over a billion dollars. The powerful capitalists, however, scoffed at the notion.

Now, it is time for the crippled nations of the Soviet Union. The capitalist Empire will continue to strike. Let us watch closely with mind and hearts. The NSC is a good window on the Soviet People.

- Rev. Chonio Perez

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE LEGEBOKOFF

- William Dascavich -

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUB?

GET YOUR FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO NORTHSTAR COMPASS!

FROM THE PEACE FRONT

By: Eryl Court

"The people of the world want peace so badly that, sooner or later, the governments will have to get out of their way and let them have it."

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower -

Recent successes for peace – due to pressure of public opinion – in Canada and world-wide: –

1. LANDMINES

The vigorous and passionate campaign against landmines (both internationally and nationally) has borne fruit in Canada. The Government (via former Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet) made a commitment against the use and export of anti-personnel landmines (though it appears the Government has NOT committed itself to destroying its existing stock of these hideous tools of destruction, which are maining and killing thousands of children, women and men in various parts of the world.) We hope that Canada will now put its full weight into the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, to banish them forever from our planet. There is much work to be done to achieve this, and our country can play a critical role in bringing it about. Canada's new Foreign Minister is Lloyd Axworthy, and there are some indications (with

respect to Mexico and Haiti, for example) that he will carry forward some truly liberal (as contrasted to Liberal) and INDEPENDENT policies internationally. It is important to encourage and press him to do so.

2. FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS STOPPED – PERMANENTLY (recently announced by French President Jacques Chirac)

This great victory for humanity is the result of determined, organized international expression of outrage at the flouting of world opinion in continuing these tests in the South Pacific area, and by an effective international boycott of French exports (including the glorious wines of France).

A notable example of effective action was reported in "The Beacon" (publication of the Melbourne, Australia Unitarian Peace Memorial Church) which provided a report by Australian Senator Sid Spindler about the international protest in Tahiti against the French nuclear testing on Mururoa Parliamentarians from about 20 countries participated, plus an estimated 10,000 people. Senator Spindler delivered to the French Commissioner on the island about 8,000 signatures opposing the tests. A resolution was also passed founding a network Parliamentarians for a Nuclear Weapons Free World. The Senator said, "It is to be hoped that the world community can convince the French Government what most French people already know namely, that nuclear weapons are a throwback to the militarist thinking of the past and that neither weapons nor the colonialist oppression which contributes to their production have any place in the evolving global community."

We second that hope, and applaud the great work that, along with other international protests, has brought an end to the French tests.

3. THE WORLD COURT PROJECT

Again, as a result of years of hard and well-organized work, with wide public pressure, the International Court of Justice in The Hague is NOW considering, and will shortly release its judgment, as to the LEGALITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. It is specifically considering the following two questions:

A. (From the World Health Organization): "In view of the health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a state in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law?"

B. (From the U.N. General Assembly): "Is the threat or the use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances permitted under international law?"

Regardless of the judgment (and even if there should be a split decision by the Justices), peace activists world-wide will have their work cut out to struggle for the elimination of these worst-of-all weapons of mass destruction. Most of us say that WE ABHOR TERRORISM - but are not nuclear weapons (whether as a THREAT or an INSTRUMENT of mass extermination, the ULTIMATE FORM OF TERRORISM (for they threaten the extinction of humanity itself)? Is it not time for sanity to assert itself, so that all children, all nature, can live under the open sky, not the mushroom cloud? For WHOM do these weapons constitute an "umbrella"?

FURTHER PEACE ACTIVITY The War On Chechnya

In Grozny, in Moscow, and in various parts of the world, peace demonstrations and protests are mounting in opposition to the policies and human rights violations of Yeltsin and his generals. It is increasingly clear that violence and suppression in that area bring only human tragedy and destruction, and no solution to the problems. Yeltsin has admitted that his political future depends upon finding a solution to this crisis. The valiant Russian Women's peace group, "Mothers of Soldiers", which made an expedition to the war area and rescued some of their own soldiers in Chechnya, last year received the Sean McBride Peace Award from the International Peace Bureau.

More and more people around the world are rejecting and refusing military solutions and asserting the human right to peace. As indicated in the quotation above, the governments will have to "get out of their way and let them have it". \square

PAGES FROM OUR PAST

DEAR FRIENDS:

This is a new column that we're instituting in this issue. Why? "Because we are all involved in struggles everyday, organizing a fight-back wherever possible, leaving little time to analyze developments in the world and at home, yet it is critically important to do so."

The above was on the masthead of a Bulletin "Ideological Fightback", issued by the Staten Island Marxist study group.

Dr. Angelo D'Angelo of the U.S.

Friends of Northstar Compass has sent in very valuable materials for this column, which we are going to use each month. It was our American friend's suggestion which we readily adopted.

We ask our readers to send in other items that we can use under the heading "Pages From Our Past".

We quote-reprint the important terminology for all of us to know – What is opportunism? This is taken from the Report to the 19th National Convention of the Communist Party of U.S.A., given by its leader, Gus Hall.

OPOPOROTUCHIST *n*. One who governs his course by opportunities or circumstances rather than by fixed principles or by regard for consistency or consequences.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPORTUNISM

Many of the weaknesses and problems of the working-class movement, including the weaknesses of our Party, are discussed under the canopy designated as opportunism. At sharp turning points in history the danger of opportunism becomes especially critical.

In many ways, the problem of opportunism and the need to struggle against it is for the working-class revolutionary movement what deadly gases are for coal miners. Like the miners, the movement must be on a constant alert. As with gas, the danger is one of accumulation. And as with gas, its presence is not always noticed until it reaches a critical point. At that point, it is often too late.

A struggle against opportunism is a struggle against the class enemy. It is an actual reality of the situation.

With certain legitimate tactical problems, concessions are necessary with regard to the level on which the given issues are raised.

- But sometimes the concessions become a way of life. It becomes a way of life to accommodate to difficulties by concessions.
- As the pressures became greater, the concessions became bigger.

The legitimate tactical adjustments as to how to present problems gradually become opportunist accommodations to the pressures.

• As a result the difficulties become drastic and reformist concepts appear.

A tactic is an adjustment in order to advance against the enemy.

• An opportunistic accommodation is a form of retreat or, at best, an acceptance of the status quo.

NOTE: The Communist International was a kind of warning bird on watch against the noxious poisons of opportunism. It was born as an instrument for such a function. It conducted the struggle on all fronts.



From CUBA AGAINST ALL ODDS

Dear Friends:

As the Cold War recedes into history Washington tightens its thirty-five years old economic blockade of Cuba. Senseless as it may seem, increased USA aggression is the policy chosen to deal with the

island that went independent and non-capitalist in the early sixties. Enraged by the stout resistance of the Cuban people, the USA first extended its embargo to American subsidiaries abroad and now tries to coerce all other countries into breaking their commercial ties with Cuba by means of specific Congressional legislation.

The overall costs of US economic war on Cuban economy are incalculable.

American economic aggression constitutes the biggest obstacle for the development programs of Cuba. But the most distressing and immediate effects are painfully evident in the everyday life of the Cuban family.

Fair, parity relationships with the socialist countries of Europe had allowed the Cubans acceptable levels of consumption. Comprehensive educational, health-care and social welfare systems offered protection and security to all Cubans. A national system of distribution of foods, clothes, domestic appliances and other essentials guaranteed EVERY Cuban modest living requirements. Although most of these products were strictly rationed, the equitable distribution system was in line with Cuba's endeavor for a just society and allowed the Cubans remarkable living standards for a Third World

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country. The collapse of East European Socialism and the tightening of the blockade dealt a very severe blow to Cuban economy. Only a fraction of this system of distribution has survived. includes milk for children up to seven years old, rations of rice, sugar and beans, and occasional allowances of other products. Practically all other consumer goods from bed sheets to cooking oil, from light bulbs to detergent are in extremely short supply or simply are unavailable. Besides food scarcity, the lack of certain kinds of medicines is most acutely felt.

The struggle to overcome the present crisis includes a thorough economic reform and the establishment of new economic links with the rest of the world.

In this effort, Cuban enterprises and their eventual partners abroad face the extreme hostility of the USA. And the attack covers every field from the financing of badly needed food programs to medical supplies; medicines and medical equipment needed to save the lives of patients in critical condition have to be bought in distant markets and the Cubans have to pay the producers for the risks they take in defying the USA government.

For those who do not know Cuba and Cuban history, its survival in the midst of the most incredible difficulties must look like a living miracle. In spite of seemingly insurmountable difficulties, not a single school and not a single hospital has been closed in Cuba. National independence has been retained and the basis for a socialist perspective remain intact - the continued democratization of the political system included. The traditional solidarity that links the Cuban people has been revealed in full strength by the difficulties. In the face of new aggression, the Cubans clench their teeth and stick with resolution to their historic commitments to the national independence and social justice. Against all odds, socialist Cuba lives!

 Alberto Medina Betancourt Professor of English Pedagogical University of Holguin, CUBA

From: UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Editor:

One correction to your facts – the TV programme by the same name "The Traitor King" was broadcast by Channel Four and not the establishment BBC.

A key feature as to why such a programme should be broadcast during this period has to be seen in the light of a general attack on the Royal family and the sovereign powers it holds. The Government is Her Majesty's Government and treaties are signed with what is known as the Crown prerogative. Some of these powers hold sway over Canada.

The question to pose is – why the attack now? Half a century has passed us by during which it was common folk knowledge regarding the traitor king. Powers are being moved to Brussels and the European Community away from Parliament in Westminster and Government in Whitehall.

The thrust is for a European Union dominated by Germany and is to be enlarged right up to the Russian borders. It is corporate capital which wants nation states and national democracy out of the way. If that means ditching Royal families or at best removing their powers, then corporate capital will arrange it and let the Royals keep a few symbols such as Crowns to give the impression nothing much has

happened.

No doubt the same collaborators and traitors are behind the European Union as were behind the traitor king. Your book will no doubt help us expose what is going on today as well as what happened during the Third Reich and assist in putting a stop to European Union which is against the interests of all of us.

Yours fraternally,
 John Boyd
 National Secretary

We stand to be corrected. Your explanation of the reasoning behind this event are crystal clear and we're afraid that your summation is correct. Yes, European Union is against the interests of all of us. We thank you for your letter.

From: GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your letter dated December 12th, 1995.

Enclosed please find two tapes containing the programmes about our former King (known locally as First Mate to an American Destroyer) as you asked for.

I had a job to get them for when I retired I made a firm decision not to have TV. So much of my life was wasted watching yards and yards of dross in the hope of getting the odd flash of information, and really there are so much more important things in life that need doing. I suffered from withdrawal symptoms for a while, but that is now past and on the odd occasion when I have access to TV, I wonder how I could have wasted so much time in the past.

Anyway, I'm sure it will be of interest to Andy who will jump on the more important points that have been left out.

Since I returned from the

Christmas holidays, I have been swept off my feet, but I will look around for some of my old articles that might be of interest and will let you have them in a few days. In the meantime, could you let me have a copy of the analysis of the Soviet counter-revolution by the Communist Party of Greece?

Kind regards,
 Denis Martin

Your kind letter and the gift of the two videos is certainly appreciated. We are going to hold a showing of them when the book will be off the press, at our Friendship House. The tapes are certainly dynamite that our readers/members will appreciate. Again, many thanks.

From: ENGLAND

I've seen your journal in our local library. Could you please tell me how to subscribe? A recent copy will be fine.

- T. Beltran

Our latest copy is on its way to you, plus the November-December issue. We hope that many more libraries in London will have our Northstar Compass.

From: DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Dear Comrades:

Materials from NSC are translated and published in Arabic in our bi-weekly "Ila Al-Amam". Our comrades are translating the programme of our party into English and it will be ready soon.

Thank you for sending me the book, "How Did It Happen?"

With comradely greetings,
 Michel Mounayer

Welcome aboard as our member of the Editorial Board of NSC. We always appreciate your publications and your warm comradely letters.

From: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Dear Friends:

I received your letter for which I thank you. I could not have written sooner because I was in the south of Mexico, in the State of Chupata, where I took photographs, which I will send to you shortly.

Now I am sending you an Italian newspaper "Carriere della Sora", plus a Mexican journal called "La Tomada" in Spanish, where you can read about the beginning of the Mexican revolution which has started.

I will be sending you articles, which are extremely important for the American Continent. The national liberation movement is growing, named after Emelian Zapata, they demand economic, political and social structures to change. If these demands are not met, then there is no alternative but civil war here.

That is why the US Defense Secretary William Perry was in Mexico in November. Why do you think he came? The economic problems are growing acute with each passing day.

Believe me, you will hear more and more about Mexico in a very short time. Will write soon about these events.

Good bye,
 Oscar Gamboa

P.S. I will send you a video cassette where you can hear an interview with the Commander Markos, in Spanish.

From: VOLGOGRAD (STALINGRAD)

Dear Comrades:

We are absolutely determined to keep in contact with your organization and publication.

Because of the present financial situation we are in, with Bolshevik

and other communist newspapers being hampered to publish due to cost and lack of newsprint, our newspaper "Voice of Stalingrad" did not appear already for 5 months. Just now we managed to publish an issue, and we are sending it to you immediately.

In answer to your many questions, a separate letter will follow.

We would like to read about the situation in which the Canadian working class finds themselves in and the struggle of the communists in this situation.

We wish you health and successes with Northstar Compass.

With Bolshevik Greetings,
 Uliana

We understand your terrible situation in publishing your excellent publication. We hope that soon the situation will be such that this problem will be solved.

In the last issue, you read about the strikes and demands of the Canadian workers.

Let us hold the torch high!

From: WALES, GREAT BRITAIN

We have received a very interesting letter plus much valuable materials from our reader in Wales. We're quoting just some lines from it.

"I am gone past 84 years. I find it extremely difficult to vote Labour. The Labour's policy, with Tony Blair as its leader, goes like this: Two fundamental Parties, Labour and the Tories. Both carrying out a policy of monopoly capitalism in Great Britain. Capitalism has no alternative road to a solution except fascism!

- Tom Hopkins

We hope to hear more from this "Retired Miner" in future issues of Northstar Compass.

URGENT APPEAL FROM SOVIET VETERANS!

Dear President Michael Lucas:

It is already over 50 years since the end of Second World War. The situation in the world has changed, but the people who fought in that war find themselves in a difficult position.



People of my country live in dire need of help, especially the veterans who have gone through that war, the disabled veterans.

In my city of Pinsk, there are over 700 disabled veterans. We are in need of medicine and food. Can you help us?

With very best wishes,
 Pyotr Shtoba
 President, Byelorussian Disabled
 Soldiers' Association

Pyotr Shtoba is pictured here with his medals.

DEAR READERS: We're asking all who can help to do so. Ask your Veterans Association if they could help. All donations to be sent to Friendship House: 280 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ont. Canada M5V 2A1.

DEAR READER: When Northstar Compass criticizes leadership of certain countries, this does not mean that we criticize the people of that country! – Editorial Board.

NEWS FROM U.S. FRIENDS OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS

Dear Comrades of the Editorial Board:

Things are picking up for the better here "in the belly of the monster" as far as our beacon of light "Northstar Compass" is concerned.

The "U.S. Friends of Northstar Compass" have been busy getting new subs and renewals.

We recently distributed NSC at the "End the Sanctions Against the People of Iraq" meeting held in New York City, sponsored by the International Action Centre.

We also attended the 1996 Convention of the New York State Communist Party, U.S.A., where we got 7 new subscriptions and two renewals. Response was very favourable to Northstar Compass by delegates present. Among new subscribers are activists in the progressive Greek-American community, a trade unionist with a Taxi Drivers Union and a senior activist in the Bronx.

Enclosed is the cheque for the subscribers and renewals.

Also, the Executive Board of NSC here voted positively on the 6 recommendations which we are sending to you in order that our NSC would be even better than it is.

Comradely yours,
 Angelo D'Angelo
 Director
 U.S. Friends of Northstar Compass

Our Editorial Board will certainly

look into your recommendations and put into effect the excellent suggestions that you friends have proposed.

This method of work, of dedication and effort we hope will spread to all readers in the countries where NSC is read. After all, if all of our resources, suggestions and stamina will be put behind the wheel as is being done by our U.S. friends, then NSC has a very bright future indeed.

No wonder that the last Conference the delegates have dubbed the American friends as "Stakhanovites"! Let yours be an example others will follow!

From: TUSCON, AZ., USA

Enclosed is my renewal plus a donation towards NSC.

Sincerely,Clyde R. Appleton

We certainly wish everyone was like you Clyde, not waiting for a reminder regarding renewal. Hope your method catches on!

From: WATERTOWN, MA., USA

Dear Friends:

Am enclosing an article which appeared in the January 13th issue of the Armenia Reporter International, plus the Armenian Mirror—Spectator, both English language weeklies which gave wholehearted support to the present government of Armenia.

The aeroplane incident in the story I've sent you and the poverty of the daily life of the Armenian people now attest to the results of their market economy. A very sad commentary on a Republic which was often referred to as the "Jewel of the Soviet Union".

Enclosed please find a donation towards our Northstar Compass.

With best wishes,
 Dick Keshishian

Your comments are to the point and the heart bleeds for Armenians and other Soviet people whom the present regimes have made into practically Third World countries. The newspaper clipping you've sent is unbelievable that in this age, such tragedies as dying of hunger in Armenia take place.

From: NEWARK, DE. USA

Enclosing \$50 as a donation.

Northstar Compass is invaluable. I especially rely on articles by Professor Herasymchuk for clear explanations and analyses.

Best for the new year, in solidarity.

- L.C.B.

Yes, we really appreciate Professor Herasymchuk's articles as you do. He's willing to put his life and his position on the line so that we may know the truth.

From: STATEN ISLAND, N.Y., USA

Enclosing a donation in Memory of Anna Lukac.

 U.S. Friends of Northstar Compass Angelo D'Angelo, George Gruenthal, Edward Wlody, Bill Doares, Lois Singer

We thank you sincerely. NSC will pass on this message to Lucas family.

From: WOODBOURNE, N.Y., USA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Gentle People:

Enclosed is my cheque for renewal to NSC. Am receiving two copies. Please correct this and save postage.

- Richard T. Vineski

Thanks for pointing this error to us. We corrected it and hope that NSC will be coming regularly to you.

We Do Produce Totally By Volunteer Labour.

FRIENDSHIP NEWS

ATLANTIC REPORT By: Vic Ratsma Atlantic Provinces Director

Maritimes are becoming restless. Deteriorating economic situations and Government cut-backs and Plant closures are causing normally quiet communities to rise in protest and anger against the attack on people's living standards.

Small communities of a few thousand inhabitants rile against their elected representatives, hold massive demonstrations, attend protest meetings and threaten electoral repercussions for their MP's and MPP's in the Federal and Provincial Parliaments. What is going on?

Well, it's really quite simple. The jobs that provided a livelihood in the region for generations are disappearing and at the same time, the government is chipping away at the social safety net that allowed people to tie themselves and their families over during periods of unemployment. And while some are fighting back, others are quietly leaving the area to seek better opportunities elsewhere in the country. Government promises about job creation – made during election campaigns – have little to show for and most now say 'governments don't create jobs, private initiative does'.

But is wholesale unemployment the answer? In Cape Breton, unemployment is officially at about 22%. The federal government, by laying off 1,200 workers in Sydney, NS, takes an estimated \$1 billion of income out of the economy of Cape Breton, all to save a loss of \$12 million per year at DEVCO. The situation seems much worse than the problem.

The problems we are discussing here are of course not occurring only in Atlantic Canada. They are happening in other parts of the country and indeed, in most other countries with developed economies. The disappearance of any national borders for the movement of capital, the fierceness of international competition driving wages and benefits down to the lowest common denominator and the

lack of a comprehensive program of alternative solutions by political parties around which working people can unite, drives us deeper and deeper into the morass. People in the former Soviet Union have seen first-hand what happens when freewheeling, un-regulated private enterprise rules the country. Unemployment, job insecurity, failure and disappearance of the social safety net upon which millions depended, crime, poverty and misery become rampant. We, as Canadians, would do well to learn the lesson that is there for all of us to see. Working people, the world over must unite and put a stop to the steamroller driven by wealthy capitalist entrepreneurs who are robbing the people of their livelihood, plundering our resources and destroying the future of our young generations.

People of Canada! People of the World! Wake up! □

T.C. DOUGLAS,
former leader of
New Democratic
Party, who is
the author of
"The Cream
Separator" in the
last issue of NSC.



MAY DAY GREETINGS IN NORTHSTAR COMPASS

We would urge our readers to place May Day greetings in Northstar Compass. Let your friends know (NSC now read in 34 countries) that May Day is a day dedicated to the working class of the world.

Be certain that your greetings arrive in plenty of time to appear in the May Day issue of NSC.

Full page ad - \$200 Quarter page ad - \$50 Half page ad - \$100 Eighth page ad - \$25

LETTERS

From: KITIMAT, B.C.

Here's a donation of \$100 towards our 'Gleam of Light', our Northstar Compass.

- S. Ribeiro

Kitimat was one of the most active branches of the Association when the Soviet vessels used to come to Port. We're certain that those times will come again! Your name will go on our

Honour Board at the Friendship House.

From: INNISFREE, ALTA.

Dear Friends:

A donation of \$50 to keep NSC being published.

Yours truly,
 Mike Feschuk

Your name appears so often on our Honour Board that we might just have to have a separate column for you! Many thanks!

From: TORONTO, ONT.

My best regards to the Editorial Board. Maybe we will win yet with the results of the vote in Russia, with Communists gaining the majority of votes.

Keep up the good work!

- Dan Ross

We certainly hope that you are correct. Thanks for your donation.

From: VANCOUVER, B.C.

Enclosed please find a \$50 donation in memory of an activist in the progressive struggle – Helen Burpee who passed away recently.

- Ken Dent

We certainly honour Helen Burpee, our member and a well known activist in the progressive and peace movements of Canada.

From: OSHAWA, ONT.

Please put me on the list for the upcoming book "My Secret Mission".

I would like to see an expanded article that was printed in Vol. 4, #6, pages 28-29 – about "the CPSU which was unaccountable before the people after 1953. The party

should guide and lead the people, but not replace the elected government officials."

This is a point that should be more widely circulated.

Best regards,
 Don Nicholls

In the next issue, we shall deal fully with this extremely important lessons for all future socialist countries!

From: INNISFREE, ALTA.

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find \$120 as renewal and the rest as a donation to our Northstar Compass.

– Peter H. Skolski Alex Skolski

Our readers are familiar with your names now, since you are the most dedicated boosters of NSC. We appreciate your very kind letters and financial help.

DONATION TO NORTHSTAR COMPASS

\$300.00 - FROM A FRIEND THUNDER BAY, ONT.

IN MEMORIAMS

Northstar Compass had many requests to have a section in NSC where ads in memory of loved ones and friends can be expressed. Donations will be accepted in this column.

AD RATES FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS

GREETINGS, CONDOLENCES, MEMORIALS: \$10 per Column Inch. Maximum size: 2 Columns x 3 Inches IF YOU BELIEVE IN FRIENDSHIP, SOCIALISM AND BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST REACTIONARY FORCES THAT HAVE USURPED POWER IN FORMER USSR – SUBSCRIBE TO NORTHSTAR COMPASS!

WE SHALL PROCEED TO STRUGGLE TOGETHER AGAINST WORLD IMPERIALISM AND THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATE POWER.

NORTHSTAR COMPASS

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Do you want more information on joining the "International Friends of Soviet People"?

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