

Workers of all races! Unity against white racist criminals! Avenge the murder of Charles Gibson!

White racist criminals beat to death Charles Gibson, a 19-year-old Black man, in Roseville, a suburb just outside Detroit, on Friday, September 7. This is the second racist attack in just two weeks. White racists beat two Black men outside Harpo's on Friday, August 31. They have not yet recovered.

These racist attacks are not accidental!

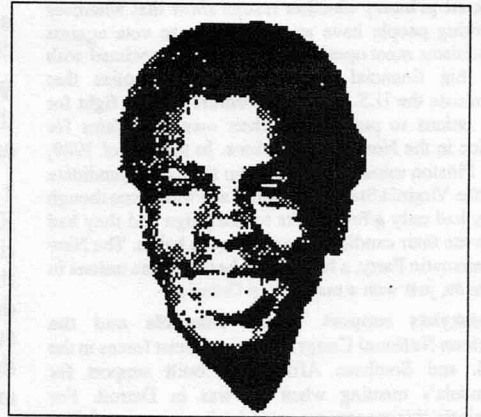
The financial monopolies that own and control the media and everything else, are deliberately trying to turn whites against Blacks. They are deliberately encouraging whites to make racist attacks on Blacks.

"Racism was secondary at Harpo's," says *The Detroit News*. Then it goes on to distort the statements of the Blacks who were beaten and to suggest that the beatings were their own fault because they were someplace that they should not have been. Similarly, the *Detroit Free Press* says, "Youths cruised Gratiot seeking trouble ... 'Basically the fights are always between whites and whites ... Usually, the black people don't get involved'" once again, as if the problem is that Black people are

going where they should not go.

Why are the financial monopolies, through the media, and in other ways, deliberately encouraging racist attacks on Blacks?

Because Blacks make up an absolutely essential part of the most working class sector of the working class. Blacks do many of the most difficult and painful jobs in the factories, in transportation and in thousands of other workplaces. Blacks are also among the workers who are most militant and most



loyal to their class.

The financial monopolies are terrified of the working class. They see the working class and popular uprisings in Germany, Romania, the USSR, Southern Africa, the Middle East ... They know it is a matter of time before the same things begin to happen in the U.S. So the financial monopolies are attacking the working class by attacking Blacks, with the hope that in this way they will be able to weaken and divide the working class and hang onto power a little longer.

Workers of all races, especially white workers, need to fight for unity against these racist attacks and racist criminals, for punishing them quickly and mercilessly. As Leon Trotsky, the Russian revolutionary said: "For every lynching, lynch 10 or 20 lynchers."

The more workers of all races struggle along these lines, the more they will see that the working class can and must build its own party, its own government, and takeover over the giant monopolies and run them in the interests of the people.■

On guard against Bush terrorism, not "Iraqi terrorism!"

Spokesmen for Bush just announced that "pro-Iraqi terrorists" might attack U.S. targets anywhere in the world, and that Bush plans to hold Iraq fully responsible for any such "terrorist" attacks.

Any such attack should come as no surprise. When the U.S. government makes an act of war against another country, and a blockade is an act of war, and positions troops to attack it, it can expect that country and its supporters to retaliate. In fact, as long as the U.S. continues to have troops stationed in other countries throughout the world, against the will of the peoples of these countries, U.S. citizens will suffer.

But it is also quite possible that Bush himself (ex-CIA man and master of dirty tricks that he is) is planning to hire some "pro-Iraqi terrorists" to organize an attack on a U.S. target, with the hope that such an attack, with the proper press coverage, will help drum up badly needed support for his war on Iraq.

In either event, workers against U.S. intervention

in the Middle East, must not waiver. The fundamental problem is the monopolies in the U.S., their army, their terrorist attacks on workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. and everywhere. Bush and Co. help the British get IRA men and women. Bush and Co. help South African apartheidists get Mandela and ANC men and women. Not Hussein and Iraq. Bring the troops home now! ■

Unity with Canadian Ford workers! Strike all three!

The Canadian autoworkers' union has just begun a strike against Ford. But the leadership of the U.S. autoworkers' union has decided to extend its contract with Ford, GM, and Chrysler and is not even considering a strike against Ford.

The top leadership of the UAW in the U.S. is obviously hoping that if they suck up to the bosses, that the bosses will give them something

they won't give the Canadian Ford workers.

This is a cowardly and short-sighted policy, worthy of a slave, not a unionized autoworker. All tendencies in the UAW, especially New Directions, should make a united fight against this policy, for unity with Canadian Ford workers, for a united strike of all three.■

Briefly . . .

The New Directions Caucus in the UAW is continuing to push for Cost-of-Living Allowances on pensions and for full written copies of the proposed contract with the auto corporation owners, before workers are forced to vote on the contract. We Trotskyists support these demands against the owners and against the current leadership of the UAW, and we urge all workers to do so. However, these demands do not fully come to grips with the problems facing the masses of autoworkers and their families. Workers who oppose the big finance capitalists, workers who realize that the top leadership of the UAW is nothing but agents for these finance capitalists inside the UAW, need to fight for: unity against the bosses and their agents in the UAW, unity against their pro-company contract, unity against their layoffs and plant-closings, and for a united, U.S.-Canadian strike against all three corporations to advance this struggle. These layoffs and plant-closings are directed especially against leaders of the opposition and the most militant sectors of workers. Are we to believe that it's accidental that hundreds of workers in Don Douglas's local are to be laid-off and their plant closed? Are we to believe that it's accidental that so many workers are being transferred out of Sally Bier's local? Now is the time to make a united, mass fight. The uprisings of workers and oppressed peoples in Eastern Europe, the USSR, and Southern Africa . . . the Iraqi's overthrow of the royal family in Kuwait and the annexation of its territory . . . show that when workers and oppressed peoples take on the big finance capitalists and their agents in united and massive fashion, they make progress.

Recent primary election results show that wherever working people have an opportunity to vote against candidates most openly and obviously associated with the big financial and industrial monopolies that dominate the U.S., they do. Workers need to fight for the unions to put forward their own candidates for office in the November elections. In the Fall of 1989, the Pitston miners' union put up their own candidate for the Virginia State Legislature and won, even though they had only a few weeks to campaign and they had to write their candidate's name on the ballot. The New Democratic Party, a labor party based on the unions in Canada, just won a majority in Ontario.

Trotskyists support Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress against racist forces in the U.S. and Southern Africa. We built support for Mandela's meeting when he was in Detroit. For precisely this reason, we consider it our responsibility to speak out against Mandela's false policy. Racist forces in Southern Africa, headed by DeKlerk, agreed to "unban" the ANC. Now these same racist forces are unleashing the violence of the official police, racist white vigilantes, and their Black supporters in Inkatha against the ANC. Nevertheless, Mandela and the ANC keep appealing to DeKlerk to stop the violence against the ANC. The only way to stop the violence against the ANC and the masses of oppressed Black people in Southern Africa, is to fight for the total destruction of the apartheid regime, for a Constituent Assembly, and for a working class party to lead this fight.

The Jeff Patterson Defense Committee asks that statements of support for Jeff, the U.S. Marine who is refusing to fight in the Middle East, be sent to: Commanding General, First Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Kaneohe Marine Corp. Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863-5501. It asks that copies be sent to Jeff's attorney: Eric Seitz, 820 Miliani Ave., Suite 714, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Socialist Action (SA), one of the Trotskyist groups in the United States associated with the United Secretariat, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International, issued a special supplement against the U.S. war on Iraq. SA supports Hussein and Iraq against U.S. military forces and calls for a united struggle to bring the troops home now. Copies of this and other publications are available from SA, 3435 Army Street, No. 308, San Francisco, CA 94110.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 23 copies of *Truth* and 3 copies of *The Fourth International* at the Labor Day demonstration, a Socialist Workers Party forum on Iraq, and at the Ford Rouge plant. We also began circulating a petition at the Ford Rouge plant and elsewhere, urging the UAW and other unions to make a united fight against U.S. intervention in the Gulf. Workers associated with New Directions and Spark agreed to sign this petition, however workers associated with the Socialist Workers Party, including Andrew Pulley, its candidate for Congress, have failed, so far, to do so. ■

Documents of the
12th Congress of the
International League
for the Reconstruction
of the Fourth In-
ternational



Why defend Hussein and Iraq?

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) is the largest group in the United States that has been associated with Trotskyism and the Fourth International. Sometime ago, it began to break with Trotskyism; recently it broke from the United Secretariat, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International, and one that has drifted far from its program and is very much influenced by middle class intellectuals and the labor aristocracy. The SWP's propaganda still has a lot of influence on various tendencies of Trotskyism and on the workers vanguard as a whole; there are still militants within the SWP that are very much devoted to the working class, and very self-sacrificing. Thus the positions that the SWP takes in the class struggle are very important.

The SWP held a forum against the war on Iraq in Detroit on September 8.

The SWP speaker called for supporting Hussein and Iraq against U.S. military forces.

However, the SWP did not push for supporting Hussein and Iraq against U.S. forces as a way to advance the struggle of the working class.

Why should workers, who want to defend their interests as workers, support Hussein and Iraq against U.S. forces?

1. Hussein's decision to overthrow the Kuwaiti ruling family and annex its territory, a family that functioned as puppets of the financial and corporate monopolies that dominate the U.S., was made under the pressure of the workers and oppressed masses of the Middle East. Overthrowing this family and annexing its territory undermines the economic, political and military power of these same financial and corporate monopolies. These monopolies use their economic, political and military power to make super-profits, which they use to buy-off a sector of the U.S. working class. These "bourgeoisified workers" (also known as the labor aristocracy; personified by, but not limited to, the top union leaders) act as agents of the bourgeoisie inside the working class and help to exploit and oppress other workers. Hussein's move is in the direct material interests of the most exploited and oppressed workers in the U.S.

2. It's essential to unify workers of all races and nationalities in the U.S. against the financial and corporate monopolies that dominate the U.S. It is impossible to do this if we allow our government to dominate and oppress workers of different races and nationalities in different countries, either indirectly, through puppets like the Kuwait ruling family, or directly, by sending troops to occupy their territories. Workers of European origin oppose carving up and occupying Europe. Workers of African origin oppose carving up and occupying Africa. Why shouldn't all workers oppose carving up and occupying the Middle East?

3. Hussein's move helps to open up the class struggle in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, to create the conditions in which the working class in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries, can develop as an inde-

pendent class, in opposition to the bourgeoisie, represented by Hussein. As long as Iraq, and other Middle Eastern nations, remain dominated by outside bourgeoisies, the development of the classes, and the class struggle in these countries, will be impeded and stunted, in the same way that rocks in a garden can impede and stunt the growth of plants.

All the propaganda against Hussein and Iraq is either lies (they're crushing poor Kuwait, they're crazy, they plan to take over all the oil fields, they plan to take over the world), or totally hypocritical (Hussein waged war on Iran . . . Hussein used chemical weapons against the oppressed Kurds in his own country . . . the U.S. government supported Hussein when he was doing these things).

Instead of pushing for defense of Hussein and Iraq as a way to advance the class struggle, the SWP did so as a way to advance a struggle for bourgeois democratic rights in and of themselves. Their arguments were at best bourgeois democratic and moral (the land belonged to Iraq in the first place; the Kuwait ruling family was oppressive), at worst, totally false (this is a step toward forming a single, united Arab nation, when there are many different Arab peoples, and non-Arab peoples, in the Middle East, and it is up to them to decide this question).

The SWP's speaker also said that open, declared support for Hussein and Iraq is a necessary pre-condition for a united fight to bring U.S. troops home now.

This is a tactical question, but a very important one. Working class revolutionaries must oppose any attempts to condemn Hussein and Iraq for their move into Kuwait. But it is totally false to make agreement with this a pre-condition for a united fight to bring the troops home now. Recent polls, as well as the experiences of working class revolutionaries, show that workers are already turning against Bush's decision to send troops. Most obviously are not yet prepared to openly side with Hussein and Iraq against the U.S. government. Workers demanding that Bush bring the troops home now, can help create the material conditions in which workers in the U.S. will see that the only road forward for them is to ally themselves with all those fighting the huge monopolies in the U.S. and form their own, working class political party, to fight for political power.

Failing to fight for defense of Hussein and Iraq as a way to advance the class struggle, failing to fight for a united struggle to bring the troops home now, is just a way to avoid a struggle in the working class against the influence of the bourgeoisie, especially the bourgeois union leaderships. It shows that the SWP is still, perhaps even more, under the influence of middle class intellectuals and the labor aristocracy. Tendencies of Trotskyism and the Fourth International than remain true to the Leninist-Trotskyist program, need to make a united fight for this program in the working class, and for unifying these same tendencies under a single discipline. — M. Guttshall ■

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