

# International VIEWPOINT

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## *The turn of the workers?*



**ROMANIA: The return of the miners**

**SOVIET UNION: Workers and "Democrats"**

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Towards dependent capitalism?**

**HUNGARY: "People loathe the new parties"**

**PLUS: Janette Habel on CUBA after the Soviet pullout**

**AND MORE...**

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### Army coup in Haiti

ON MONDAY September 30, 1991, following some bloody confrontations, the chief of staff of the Haitian army, Raoul Cédras, who had been appointed by the new president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, seized power in the country. Aristide was arrested by the putschists, before leaving the country under the protection of the French embassy. At the time of going to press, there remains great confusion about the situation in Haiti.

The claims by the military that Aristide had the intention of installing a "new dictatorship" and the promises of a rapid return to constitutional normality are the commonplaces of any coup. The fact that the United States has condemned the coup does not necessarily prove either that it has clean hands in the affair.

But numerous questions remain. Why did the army, which had remained quiet during the attempted coup by the "macoutes" which preceded Aristide's assumption of power in January 1990, act now? Could the Haitian army, and above all its current leaders, who are close to the United States, act without, at least, the consent of US imperialism — which, it should be remembered, still keeps its Marines at the Guantanamo base in Cuba?

Yet Bush's official declarations are increasingly firm — aid will be suspended and the junta will not be recognized. Moreover, French imperialism is trying to profit from this affair to increase its influence in Haiti in the event of a return to power of Aristide.

At the same time, this army coup should surprise no one who was aware of the limited room for manoeuvre that Aristide has enjoyed (see IV 211). He was confronted by a state apparatus and an administration trained under Duvalierism; he had no real majority in the Assembly, no real party; his trusted supporters were not in the majority in his own government; an economic crisis is raging and the Haitian bourgeoisie is profoundly parasitic; the absence of an organized mass movement also weighed heavily. Finally, the "deDuvalierization" of the army, which has certainly been weakened by the different coups of the past few years, was limited to the retirement of six of its top leaders — while soldiers with close links to the United States were placed in key posts — and an attempt to put the rural police under the control of the Minister of the Interior.

Aristide is currently in the United States; after having appealed to the Organization of American States, which will send a mission to Haiti to demand that the military leave power and has refused to recognize the junta, he will address the Security Council of the United Nations.

However muddy the circumstances of the coup, the tasks of socialists are clear — to demand the departure of the military junta and give total support to the Haitian people. — Cecilia Garmendia. ★

dent Mauritian left, Lalit, chose, in the name of the "danger from the far right", symbolized in its view by the PMSD, not to weaken the governmental coalition by putting forward a candidate. ★

### DENMARK

#### **Palestinians wage fight against mass deportation**

THE Danish government is threatening 125 stateless Palestinians with deportation to Lebanon, where they face persecution by the Syrian authorities or different militias (See IV 211).

Seventy have sought refuge in a Copenhagen church, an action which has made national headlines and has mobilized trades unionists, religious people, artists and writers in their support.

The Socialistisk Arbejder Parti (SAP — Danish section of the Fourth International) organized a demonstration on September 12 sponsored by 16 Copenhagen trade union chairs and vicars, which attracted

about 700 people around the slogans "Withdraw the expulsions!", "Lebanon is no safe country!" and "Asylum for the Palestinians threatened with deportation!".

While a parliamentary majority has now spoken out against the expulsion of the Palestinians, the decision remains in the hands of the Minister of Justice, Conservative hard liner Hans Engell.

Behind the current wave of expulsion orders lies an extreme tightening of asylum policies. Since 1989 Palestinians have no longer been automatically granted asylum.

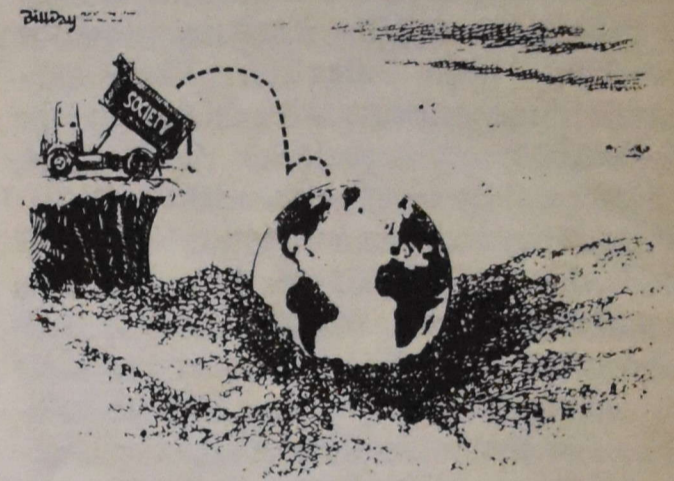
Many of the Palestinian refugees are former members of Fatah or other PLO groups which the Syrian forces have tried to stamp out in order to ensure their hegemony in Lebanon. Some are wanted by different militias for desertion.

Amnesty International and Danish Refugee Aid (a semi-official organization) have documented the fact that the Syrians control airport arrivals and departures,

and already this year five stateless Palestinians were deported from Lebanon to Syria (where they were arrested) under the terms of a new security treaty between the two states.

Protests should be sent to Danish embassies or to the Ministry of Justice, Slotsholmsgade 10, DK-1216 Copenhagen K.

Copies and other messages should be sent to Asylaktivisterne, Blaagaardens Medborgerhus, Blaagards Plads 3, DK-2200 Copenhagen N. ★



### FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

#### **Eighth summer camp held in Czechoslovakia**

MORE than 750 young people from all over Europe participated in the 8th international summer camp of revolutionary youth organizations in solidarity with the Fourth International, held this year at Hradec Nar Moravici in eastern Czechoslovakia. Around 40% of the youth present were attending their first Fourth International summer camp and almost 50% of the participants were not members of revolutionary youth organizations.

For the second time, delegations of youth from Eastern Europe participated in the camp, and this year the content of the debates and political exchanges marked a clear advance, the question of feminism and women's oppression in particular coming to the fore.

This year, the political programme was essentially axised around the upheavals in eastern Europe and their economic, political and social consequences in the new Europe; the transition in the East, the formation of the Europe of the Single Act, nationalism and socialism, not forgetting the problems of the Third World. The week ended with a day devoted to our revolutionary project, based on self-management and democracy.

The success of the eighth camp shows what it is possible to do despite limited resources and above all faced with the ideological and economic offensive of imperialism, in the East as in the West.

The new Europe demands that revolutionaries, if they wish to win your project, adopt a new practice of international meetings like this one. Without doubt, one of the possible forms