

International VIEWPOINT

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Issue 241

December 21, 1992

£1.50 ; \$2.75 ; C\$3 ; 16FF

SOMALIA: FROM BAD TO WORSE



● Belgium: students strike against fascism

● The left in the ex-USSR

● India: the tragedy at Ayodhya

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IV goes monthly

THIS issue of *International Viewpoint* is the last before our winter break. It is also the last of the current fortnightly series. Your next issue will arrive at the start of February 1993 and will be the first of the new monthly series of *IV*.

THE EDITORS

AS we warned last July, despite the fact that sales and subscriptions have remained steady, rising costs and a mounting deficit are threatening the future of *International Viewpoint* and its sister publications.

Despite an encouraging response from our readers to our appeal for funds and a good take up of the three-month special offer, the deficit has continued to mount. In these circumstances it seemed wiser to act decisively to stem the losses and retreat to a more sustainable budget than to risk the need for even more drastic remedies in the future. Instead of a schedule of 22 numbers of a 28-page journal a year, we will be moving to a schedule of 11 numbers of a 36-page journal.

The validity of current subscriptions will be calculated on a basis of one new issue to one and a half old ones — thus effectively turning a one year subscription into a subscription valid for eighteen months. Annual rates for new subscriptions will remain the same for the new series as for the old — obviously representing a cut in the number of pages received for each subscription. Cover prices will be raised.

Every cloud...

However, all is not doom and gloom. The announcement of our problems six months ago brought forth many expressions of dismay and offers of concrete help with production and distribution — proving that our readers find *IV* useful and sometimes even indispensable. This vote of confidence has given a big boost to morale here! We will be taking advantage of all the offers of concrete help.

Furthermore, fortnightly or monthly, the time had come for a new start for *International Viewpoint*. In recent years, the

international political map has been completely redrawn. Some old landmarks have been swept away altogether and others are tottering. The collapse of the Soviet bloc in late 1989 has been followed by (among other things) the Gulf War and the outbreak in the former Yugoslavia of the first full-scale war in Europe since 1945. And this is only the beginning.

The combination of the crisis of capitalism and the collapse of the dominant ideologies in the workers' movement leads to a situation where fundamental ideas need to be restated and applied to the new reality. *International Viewpoint* intends to strive to assume its responsibilities in this respect. It aims to assist in the birth of a new labour movement adequate to the demands of the new times.

...But fund drive continues

OUR favourite example of the kind of financial problem we face has been the rise in postal costs, which have risen by 150% in the past ten years while the price of *IV* has risen by 70%. Postal costs are a major item for a magazine mainly sold outside its country of production. About a third of each mailing, for example, goes to North America — a continent away!

Furthermore, there has been a long-term decline in the value of the American dollar and British pound — the currencies of English speaking countries where we sell — compared to the French franc — the currency of the country where we produce.

Thus our income from every issue of *IV* sold in Britain and North America has been squeezed. In effect, while it may not seem like this to our readers, we have been subsidizing ever more heavily to cover the unfavourable development of exchange rates.

These problems will not disappear when we go monthly; we are therefore continuing our appeal for funds to assure the long-term future of our press. ★

The new monthly formula will have a new look, with a new front cover and layout. It will include regular, well-prepared, dossiers on key problems of international politics and regions of the world. Cumulatively, we hope that these will become a source of reference for our readers.

We will have a documents' section providing information on key developments on the left and revolutionary movements. A number of other rubrics are under discussion that will make the magazine more useful and interesting.

Changes in editorial structure will ensure that *IV* provides sharper, thoroughly discussed views on the big questions our readers are asking.

We aim to produce a magazine written in a manner accessible to the widening circles of people who feel the urgent need for a new perspective solidly founded in a grasp of the fundamental forces at work beneath the mounting chaos, but who are not acquainted with, or impressed by, jargon and rhetoric.

Finally, we give our heartfelt thanks to all those who have sent in money, and offered help and encouragement. Going monthly is a step back, but with your help and support it will be a step back to a well-fortified position that will be a tower of strength in the tremendous turmoil that faces our world in the years to come. ★

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST REVIEW



THE WINTER 1992 issue of *International Marxist Review* focuses on combatting current attacks on Marxism:

- The pro-capitalist ideological offensive and its limits
- Can there be socialism in "complex societies"?
- Postmodernism, difference theory and feminism
- Crisis of French Marxism
- Legacy and prospects for the U.S. left
- Women, political parties and positive action: Fourth International World Congress resolution

Subscription rates: Britain and Europe £10/120FF/\$17; USA & elsewhere (airmail) \$20; all countries (surface) £10/120FF/\$17.

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