Thousands protest Carter's draft

'We won't die for Exxon!'

By Janice Lynn

Just days after Carter raised the specter of reinstating the draft, thousands of young people took to the streets in angry protests.

Twenty-five hundred rallied at the University of California at Berkeley; 1,800 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis; 1,000 at the University of Oregon in Eugene; 800 at Harvard; 800 at Columbia; and thousands more at campuses throughout the country.

Their slogans reflected the deep antiwar consciousness that exists among the American people:

"No Draft—No War—No Nukes.
Exxon, Mobil, what do you say, we won't fight your war today.
We won't kill for Capitol Hill.
Hell no, we won't go.
ERA—yes. Draft—no.

These initial outpourings have exposed the lies of the big-business media about the "end of the Vietnam syndrome." The antidraft mood revealed by these rallies and protests sharply contrasts with the earlier were portrayed by the capitalist media as reflecting a pro-war majority in this country.

And the potential to fight back against the draft has only begun to be tapped.

Ever since Carter's speech, the mills, plants, and factories have been buzzing with discussions. Young white, Black, and Latino workers know that they would be the first to go if there were a war. Their younger sisters and brothers in the high schools face the same grim reality.

Antidraft organizers are already taking steps to bring the power of the labor movement into the fight.

In Chicago, the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) has outlined plans to send sample resolutions to local area unions so they can go on record against the draft. CARD will provide speakers for union meetings and is seeking labor participation in local activities.

The United States Student Association has also announced plans to contact the unions.

The USSA has called for a series of antidraft teach-ins on college campuses this spring.

The antidraft protests have also been tied to the antinuclear movement. At the U.C. Berkeley rally the 2,500 students expressed their joint opposition to the draft, war, and the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Protesters have made the link between war and the profit drive of the energy industry. One of the best received speakers at the University of Minnesota rally January 30 was Madge Zitlow of the American Friends Service Committee. She declared: "We used to fight wars for freedom and justice, they said. But now we fight them for oil."

Thousands of young women have participated in the rallies. By raising the idea that women could also be drafted, Carter has introduced a new and explosive force into the antidraft struggle.

At the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, 700 people came to a January 30 rally despite the bitter cold.

Carol King, president of the Michigan National Organization for Women told the rally, "Students should not go quietly to the slaughter. NOW is opposed to registration and the draft for all people."

As opposition to the draft deepens, the future of antidraft protests right from the start.

The labor movement has the power to stay Carter's hand in reinstituting the draft and the power to prevent another Vietnam.

If labor mobilized its power to say no to this new step toward war, Carter and the Congress would have to think twice before drafting this nation's youth.

Trade unionists have every reason to join with students and other antidraft activists in the demonstrations, teach-ins, picket lines, and marches planned. The future of an entire generation of young people depends on it.
Two faces of Kennedy

In his January 29 speech at Georgetown University, Senator Edward Kennedy revealed his vision for his presidential campaign. He appealed to some of the deepest feelings of working people.

The speech displayed Kennedy's awareness that there are millions of people who don't buy Carter's claims that Americans must accept higher living standards in order to get involved in the war. Carter concentrated on ensuring that the Ford-Carter anti-inflation policies would be continued under a Kennedy administration.

At the beginning of his campaign, when his backers thought the nomination might be in the bag, Kennedy was concentrating on ensuring big business that the Ford-Carter anti-inflation policies would be continued under a Kennedy administration.

That tactic cost votes. “He suddenly found himself accused of having few substantive differences with the President—a charge that was not without some foundation, at least in the context of the Senator’s voting record,” wrote a New York Times columnist January 30.

Of one set of promises was traded in for another:

“As for Mr. Kennedy’s return to liberal themes, that shift was meant, according to aides, to provide a clearer rationale for his decision to challenge the President.”

This kind of cynical vote-hustling is standard operating procedure for the two parties of big business. And the promises made to get our support have no influence whatever on the policies carried out while in office. The administrations of Johnson, Nixon, and Carter proved that.

In office, Kennedy would press for more military spending just as Carter did after promising to cut it during his campaign.

Kennedy as president would continue to prop up dictators like the shah and Somoza, just as Carter has done without any seeming to get around popular opposition to the draft.

And Kennedy in office would try to pare down our living standards and weaken our unions, just as Carter has done without any regard for his 1976 campaign rhetoric.

The purpose of this charade, aside from getting elected, is to keep working people scampering from one big-business politician to another in search of relief.

It’s high time for the union movement to start breaking out of this trap. Working people don’t have to choose between the lies of one millionaire and the deceit of another. We have powerful organizations which can provide the basis for a real party of working people, a labor party that can run working people for office on a program representing our interests.

A real party candidates could stick to a set of promises—and keep them.

Kampuchea victory

The famine in Kampuchea (Cambodia) is over.

This was acknowledged January 23 by Victor Palmieri, the U.S. State Department’s coordinator for refugee affairs. Palmieri’s statement was an implicit admission that Carter was lying when he said that the Vietnamese and Kampuchean governments were deliberately withholding food aid from starving Kampuchaeans.

The end of the famine is a victory for the people of Indochina and the world. Kampuchea survived because Vietnam and the Soviet Union provided food, and because relief agencies like Oxfam and Church World Services refused to party to Carter’s efforts to use famine to bring down Heng Samrin’s government.

Kampuchea survived because tens of millions of working people all over the world, including the United States, felt that food aid must be given to Kampuchea with no strings attached.

But the U.S. government is continuing to pressure Kampuchea in the expectation that a new famine may occur in the spring.

Their immediate goal is to keep Kampuchea and Vietnamese troops from marching up the remaining forces of mass murderer Pol Pot. Thailand’s military dictatorship is directly involved in organizing and guarding Pol Pot’s military encampments along the Thai border.

There have even been hints of possible U.S. military reprisals if the fighting with Pol Pot spills over to the Thai border.

American working people should oppose efforts to salvage Pol Pot’s killers. We should demand that Washington stop its threats to recognize the Heng Samrin government, and provide massive aid to Kampuchea.

Militant Highlights This Week

Pulley urges antiterrorist drive

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for president, stopped in Miami enroute to fact-finding tour of Cuba. There he called on labor, civil rights, and women’s movements to join campaign to halt anti-Cuba terrorism. Page 9.

Eyewitness in El Salvador

Firsthand account of January 22 massacre, and of massive resistance by Salvadoran workers and peasants to government attempts to turn back growing strength of revolutionary movement. Page 17.

UAW fights takeover demands

United Auto Workers members at Budd auto parts plants are striking nationwide against company attempt to model their contract on the substandard Chrysler terms. Page 12.
'Draft is aimed at poor folks—not oil execs'

By Janice Lynn

In 1966 Angel Almedina was a fresh¬man at Columbia University. In De¬cember of that year he received a draft notice and a subway token.

"I went from Harlem to Whitehall Street, to Fort Gordon, Georgia," he said. "We are mobilizing nationally to start mangled, with no legs, and one eye.'

Almedina is now a leader of the New York-based Latino Veterans for Social Justice. "I am totally opposed to the draft," he said. "We are mobilizing nationally and internationally with a lot of Latinos throughout the country."

When asked what he thought about Carter’s war, Almedina replied, "The only people who are going to get drafted are the young people. The youngsters coming out of high school that didn’t go to college, which will be most of us—Blacks, Latinos, and poor workers.

"All the hoopla about people wanting to go, yeah, that’s fine," he continued. "But when they see people coming back mangled, with no legs, and one eye—that’s what people will start really avoiding it.

Almedina explained how "the draft is geared to the poor folks—anybody that’s broke.

"Now there’s not one oil company executive that’s going to send his son or daughter out there—that’s guaranteed. There’s no big-time politician in the U.S. that’s going to send his son or daughter out there.

"The way society is made up now," he said, "the people who are going to fight are the folks who are down and out anyway.

The Latino Veterans for Social Justice will urge people not to register.

"They’re talking about how all they want to do is register names," Almedina explains. "No, no, that’s nonsense. The fact of the matter is, like Mr. Kennedy mentioned—and I’m not too enthused about him either—that’s the first step. You take your name, and the next thing is, you get a token."
2,500 in Berkeley say 'No draft! No nukes!'

California

By Gary Balsam

BERKELEY—On January 25, 2,500 students poured into Sproul Plaza at the University of California to demonstrate their opposition to Carter's plan to reinstitute the draft.

Just one day earlier an earthquake had caused radiation leak at the nearby Livermore nuclear weapons research laboratory (see back page). The University of California Nuclear Weapons Lab Conversion Project was one of the sponsors of the anti-draft rally.

Many speakers emphasized the connection between the draft and the continued development of nuclear power and weapons. The demonstrators didn't want either. Part of the crowd shouted, "Hell no, we won't go!" while others chanted, "Hell no, we won't go!"

A representative of Berkeley Students for Peace, one of the organizers of the rally, told the crowd, "No one is going to send us to the middle of nowhere to die for some dictator again."

Many women students attended the rally. Helen Michalovsky of the Women's Strike for Peace said, "They say they're giving us equality with men in the draft. I don't call the chance to kill people equality of opportunity."

One of the biggest cheers came when a speaker said he was not willing to die for Exxon.

Off to one side, near the speakers' stand, a group of young people in the Vietnam War held a banner that said, "To hell with the draft. We won't go!"

Earlier in the week, several hundred students held an anti-draft rally around the marine recruitment table. The marines didn't show up for the protest.

By Ken Davey

11:30 A.M.—One hundred and fifty people picketed the Federal Building in Westwood January 25 protesting the draft and ending an end to the nuclear threat.

Called by the Alliance for Survival, an anti-nuclear group here, the protestors chanted, "Don't wait until it's too late, end the draft now."

Other participating groups included the Young Socialist Alliance and the late, end the draft now."

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Iran elections held after centuries of monarchy

By Cindy Jaquith

After centuries of domination by monarchs, Iran held elections on January 25 to elect a president. More than 100 candidates had entered the race.

The Interior Ministry announced January 28 that Ali Akbar Hashemi Bani-Sadr had won the election, with 10.7 million votes or 75 percent of the ballot cast.

Mortaza Gorgazadeh, one of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) members imprisoned in Ahwaz, Iran, has been released. Five HKE members remain in jail.

The election was seen as a test of the Islamic Republic's stability, with the conservative establishment hoping to win a clear victory.

Young workers discuss Iran: a different view

By Stu Singer

At the recent Young Socialist Alliance meeting I attended, a group of Young Socialists from the Militant sat down with four TSA members to discuss Iran.

One is a black man who works Avondale Shipyard near New Orleans. Another is a shipyard worker in Newport News, Virginia. A coal miner in West Virginia. And the fourth works at the giant Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Plant in Baltimore, Maryland.

Excerpts of this discussion are below.

Here is a view of American workers totally different from the soap-opera version we are bombarded with from the networks.

And here is a glimpse of young socialists who are grappling with questions that represent this new generation of fighters.

A white male worker from Avondale Shipyard:

"The majority sentiment of young workers, Black and white, is they don't want to go to war. Black workers seem to identify more with the Iranians' fight against the shah."

A black woman from Newport News Shipyard, member Steelworkers Local 8888:

"In the morning people are reading the newspaper and the biggest topic of discussion is Iran. Every Black worker I talk to says to send back the shah. One young worker said, 'Why are you asking me that? You know they should just send him back. They didn't have him here in the first place and knew what would happen.'" "I asked a union member in the shop why he missed the last union meeting. He said, 'I was at an Army Reserve meeting. They're getting ready to send me back to Iran.'" "I asked if he wanted to go? He said: 'I think they should send back the shah and send Carter back with him.'"

"Some of the white workers say they want to 'Bomb Iran.' One worker I talked to is against sending the shah back. But he doesn't see going to die for the guy. He talks about Iranian as a military thing and that people in Iran want the shah out. But he doesn't personally think people should be going to fight for the shah."

"There was an editorial in the Daily Press where they supported drafting people for mandatory service. We had a discussion on that. Most people were not in favor of it." "Melissa Merchant, Republic Steel mine near Grafton, West Virginia:"

"Three guys around forty years old were talking about an incident where the Klan showed up at a shopping center. Then they started talking about the shah."

"I felt nervous. But I said, 'Why don't you ask the shah the back to Iran?'"

"And they said, 'Of course, we should get rid of that motherfucker. Send him full of air and sent him back to the hospital, "They should have shot him dead.'"

"Martin Koppel, Sparrows Point, Steelworkers Local 8888:"

"We listen to the radio a lot when there is nothing else to do. I've been surprised a little. This real old white worker turns around to me and says, 'Why the hell did they bring the shah to the U.S. in the first place? Isn't this a dictatorship? Didn't he kill all kinds of thousands of people? Why the hell didn't they bring his head here?"

"The racist harassment of Iranians doesn't go over well at all. We see them signs saying "No dogs or Iranians" and people say, 'That's out of place. That doesn't belong in our country.'"

Avondale: In the yard there's a school where you get training. Once a week there's a safety meeting. There are about 150 people. There is a marine there. Before the safety officer comes in the marine jokes around. He is gung-ho for war. He asked how many people want to go to Iran? Four raised their hands.

Merchant: People talk about terrorism and the hostages. I say you have to look at the issues. Which side are you sympathetic to? The Iranians have a justified demand that the shah should be sent back."

"There was some 'terrorism' in the miners' strike, some sabotage. Railroad bridges were blown up, things like that. No matter what you thought about this, you had to take sides."

"Miners I was talking to said, 'Yeah, I didn't think it was very good. But we really showed the company.'"

"This guy who is nineteen or twenty years old said, "All the laid-off coal miners are going to be drafted." He mentioned that West Virginia had the highest proportion of fatalities in Vietnam."

"Most people have heard about the large proportion of Blacks and Latinos who fought in Vietnam. What most people don't know is there was also a disproportionate number of people from Appalachia who had to fight, that got drafted. The younger people are very opposed to the draft. The older ones often say they don't want their kids to go there."

"Koppel: I've been wearing a "Why Do We Send the Shah?" button at work. I was walking by this one guy who said we should go bomb Iran. A worker who works with me is usually pretty mild, but he just laughed and said, "You've got to be crazy. Why don't you just go over there? I am not going to go for any reason.""

"The Militant has played a good role. This nineteen-year-old guy opened it up and as soon as he saw the center piece on the shah he said, 'Oh, that's been a long time ago.' people there right there so everybody can see it.""

"One person put up the poster "Why Do We Send the Shah?" on the back of one of the clock houses. Thousands of people go by there every day. It has stayed up for the past two weeks."

Merchant: I was selling the Militant at a shopping center and it had a headline about the war moves against Iran. There was this guy, he was about fifty, wearing a baseball hat and sitting in a pick-up truck in the parking lot. He was watching me for fifteen or twenty minutes, always frowning."

"When he got out of the truck and started walking toward me, I thought, "Okay, here it comes." I thought he was going to start yelling at me. But suddenly he walked up and said, 'So they're ready to send our boys somewhere else to die for them.'"

"He ended up buying the Militant."

Avondale: There is a group of workers, concentrated in the skilled trades, who have been over to Chavezism sentiment. This includes some Blacks. They say Iran should be wiped off the map. It is a big yard so you get heterogeneous political expression. The majority we come in contact with are against the shah."

"I rode home on the bus one day with a welder. He's totally opposed to the war, any war. He's concerned about going to war. He has him up for an hour on that bus we talked about the politics of war. I ended up with him for fifteen minutes against Germany and lose against Vietnam?"

Iran: An explosive type issue in that sense. It leads young workers to a lot of other questions. They ask general questions about the system, about the war, the draft, why this is happening. They wonder why there is such a lack of other points of view you can hear.

"I didn't think it was very good. But we really showed the company."
By Ike Nahem

CHICAGO—The continuing effort by the Carter administration to depose thousands of Iranians studying in this country has encouraged the harassment and victimization of Iranians by racist and right-wing forces.

Most of the facts have been kept out of the headlines but documentation of this harassment has been gathered by the Iranian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and by Iranian Consulates in other cities (see box below).

I recently talked with Reza Ghograisli, a staff person at the Iranian Consulate in Chicago, about the situation in the Iranian area.

The consulate is located in the plush Standard Oil skyscraper overlooking Lake Michigan. Upon entering the office, however, it is clear that things have changed in the consulate since the days of the shah.

Most of the consulate personnel are young people. Several are women. The outer waiting room is decorated with revolutionary posters of the street demonstrations that led to the shah's overthrow. Other posters and pictures commemorate martyrs who died in the uprising for the shah's torture chambers.

Solidarity with other anti-imperialist struggles, particularly Vietnam and Palestine, is also expressed. One poster shows an image of Henry Kissinger as the architect of the 1973 military coup in Chile.

The consulate is a beehive of activity. Students are continually coming in to get news from their country and report to the consulate on harassment they receive. An increasing number are checking in with the consulate before catching flights back to Iran.

Ghograisli told me, “Every day at O'Hare Airport, you can see small groups of Iranians who cannot take the harassment anymore and are going home.”

“Some students have been asked to leave classes by their teachers, because the teachers are angry with Iran,” he said. “These students have paid for their studies and are kicked out of class.

“Other students report that their grades on classwork have dropped from A to C and D for the same quality work.

“And many students have had great difficulty cashing checks to pay for tuition in addition to purchasing other necessities such as food.”

“In a demonstration in D.C. two students were badly beaten. One suffered a broken jaw... .

“The embassy protest notes that the condition of some Iranians, especially those who have suffered brutalities at the hands of officials and private citizens, is worse than that of the hostages.

“Noting that no hostage (or any other American in Iran, one might add) has been beaten or killed during the crisis, the embassy reported that “the body of a 22-year-old Iranian was found on Boston late last week with 38 stab wounds, 2 bullet wounds and his neck slit.”

“Two other Americans who had been looking for a just and peaceful solution to the problem that has now surfaced between Iran and the United States, would have been appalled to read such things, if they had been able to read them or hear about them in their media.”

It concludes, “Unlike what has been reflected in the American media, a great many American people support our cause, because it is a search for truth and justice. The American people on the whole are a freedom and justice loving people. We believe in the adage, ‘The truth will out.’

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Fact sheet on harassment of Iranians in U.S.

A statement being circulated by the Iranian Embassy in Washington protests the campaign of intimidation and victimization of Iranians in the United States, giving many examples.

The racist campaign was initiated by the Carter administration as part of its effort to win support for war in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region.

Iranians were fired from jobs and attacked by cops, while off-duty cops and ultra-right-wing groups like the Ku Klux Klan provided the muscle for anti-Iranian demonstrations.

The attacks on Iranians spilled over to include other peoples of Middle Eastern descent, Muslims, and those who defended Iranians.

Most working people were turned off by the blatant racism and brutality of the anti-Iranian campaign.

Having failed to evoke the response its organizers were hoping for, the racist drive has tended to trail off, its organizers were hoping for, the racist campaign has tended to trail off, but that of the hostages.

“Another was arrested for jaywalking and this embassy had to pay $500 bail for his release.

“A demonstraion in D.C. two Black Americans who were partic­pants at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. They have been arrested and are back in Iran. White Americans who had spits at them were re­leased.

“A sixteenth year old was arrested after he had had a car accident and was held in custody for four days.

“Mesquites in Norman, Oklahoma, Cleveland, Ohio and Queens, New York were severely damaged by bombs and other explosives...

“In many places Iranians cannot get their cars serviced and cannot use their passports. Some are even looking for a just and peaceful solution to the problem that has now surfaced between Iran and the United States, would have been appalled to read such things, if they had been able to read them or hear about them in their media.”

It concludes, “Unlike what has been reflected in the American media, a great many American people support our cause, because it is a search for truth and justice. The American people on the whole are a freedom and justice loving people. We believe in the adage, ‘The truth will out.’

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Hostage's mother wants Shah tried

Toni Sickman of Krakow, Missouri, is the mother of Marine Corps Sgt. Rocky Sickman, one of fifty Americans being held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

She is urging an immediate trial for the deposed Shah of Iran, reported the January 21 St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The situation "has gone on too long," she insisted. "I am bitter, but I am not so much bitter at the students. They want to see some justice done. There's been a lot of injustice done in [Iran], and there's been a lot of people in this country involved in it.

She has written to President Carter and United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim asking that the shah be tried. And she is frustrated with their determination to protect the hostages "regardless of what that means for her son and the other hostages."

"But how can I, such a little person in this country, fight the millionaires?" she asked angrily. "There are a lot of people in America who don't want the shah put on trial. It could be worse than Watergate.

She placed the oil companies at the top of the list of those trying to block a just solution of the embassy crisis.

"I wish to god the people in this country would stand up to what they've made companies do wrong. They're not worried about our boys over there."

---
Islamabad meeting backs Washington

Arab states oppose Carter invasion threat

By Fred Feldman

In the wake of the dispatching of Soviet troops to block U.S.-supported counterrevolutionary forces in Afghanistan, the Carter administration is trying to line up governments of Muslim countries behind its war moves.

In his State of the Union address, Carter threatened to invade the Middle East in order to prevent it from "Soviet aggression." This kind of offer did not sit too well with many Arab governments.

Iraq's foreign minister charged that Carter's "unprecedented" move would pave the way for a military interference in several countries of the world, particularly the Arab world.

"We will confront this new chapter of American arrogance, hegemony, and warmongering," declared the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Of the Arab regimes, even some of the more reactionary opposed the invasion threat. "We refuse any form of foreign interference in our internal affairs," said Ali Faisal Hussain, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs.

These stands reflect the hostility that millions of Arab working people feel to Washington's military and economic domination of their countries.

They know that it is U.S. oil companies, not the Soviet Union, that have drained them of their wealth for decades.

They know that it is the U.S. government, not the Soviet Union, that has massed an armada of warships near the Persian Gulf to threaten Iran.

That is why any Arab government that endorses Carter's invasion talk would lessen its own chances of survival.

In fact, the Soviet Union is not the main target of Washington's threats. A "senior administration official" told New York Times correspondent Bernard Gwertzman January 24 that a crisis requiring U.S. military intervention was more likely to occur because of Soviet subversion of a country such as Iran rather than the direct entry of the Soviet Army.

"Soviet subversion" is Washington's favorite code for the struggles of the working-class and oppressed against imperialist domination. What Carter fears is not a Soviet march toward "warm water ports" or Arab offshores but that working people in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere will take a cue from the Iranian and Afghani revolutions.

The prospect of new revolutionary upheavals hounds the Carter administration as it proceeds ahead with its military buildup. In January 26 New York Times, Henry Tanner reported that, "if all goes well," U.S. planes will soon be using bases in Somalia, Kenya, and Oman.

But, he added, "the crucial question remains whether the United States will be able to build up its air and naval power in the region without provoking punitive measures by making the military gains illusory."

The reluctance of many capitalist governments in Muslim lands to take part in the Soviet aggression against the Afghan revolutionaries would lessen its own chances of survival.

The conference was engineered by the Soviet Union in economic desperation. What Carter fears is not the Qom Theological Society and the Revolutionary Guards also made critical statements.

Iranian officials demanded and obtained a one-day postponement of the conference. It had originally been scheduled for January 26, in open conflict with Palestinian protests against the official opening of diplomatic relations between the Israeli and Egyptian regimes.

When the conference agreed to add U.S. threats against Iran to the agenda, the Iranian government suspended its deputy foreign minister to Islamabad.

As expected, Washington scored a propaganda point when thirty-six representatives of the Afghan resolution echoed Carter's call for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan from membership in the body. None were reported to have opposed the resolution.

The conference tried to legitimize the Afghan ultrarightists by hearing a representation of the Afghan government for the Liberation of Afghanistan, a newly formed bloc of six pro-impérialist parties.

But nine governments withheld support from a proposal to break off diplomatic relations with Kabul, and eleven refused to endorse a motion "envisoning" the possibility of "non-recognition" in the Moscow Olympics.

The Afghan revolution wasn't the only target of the conference of the Islamabad meeting. According to a report in the January 30 New York Times, representatives of Tunisia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and a few other Arab regimes agreed with the Carter administration to end its threats against Iran, and for backing the Camp David Accords.

Why Soviet Muslims don't "back Afghan rightists"

By Steve Clark

Some commentators in the press have speculated that the Soviet government sent troops into Afghanistan because it feared that the right-wing insurgency there would have an "attractive pull" on Asian nationalities inside the Soviet Union.

"Western and other foreign specialists here are skeptical of" that theory, Anthony Austin reported from Moscow in the January 15 New York Times.

Austin goes on to explain why... almost everyone in the Soviet Central Asian republics, says Austin, "seems proud of what has been achieved in turning stagnant communist dependencies into modernizing, productive republics."

"This is particularly evident in Uzbekistan, the leading Central Asian republic, and the one with the largest population, 10 to 12 million. Illiteracy, 86 percent before 1977, has been all but wiped out." Illiteracy in Afghanistan is around 90 percent, and opposition to the government's anti-imperialist campaign has been one of the battle cries of the rightist bands that are somehow supposed to be attractive to Asians in the Soviet Union.

"Life expectancy [in Uzbekistan] is 70 today." Austin continues, "which was 40 years before the revolution." Life expectancy in Afghanistan is still around 40, but the govern- ment the rightist guerrillas are trying to overthrow has been exped- iting medical facilities.

"There is one doctor for 386 people... this is 70 today." continues Austin, "the poorest of the poor". "In Pakistan, by contrast, there is one for 6,000." The govern- ment has been spending 70 percent of its budget equipping the right-wing rebels.

"In the four other Central Asian republics," says Austin, "the progress is almost as striking, though all five are still behind the rest of the Soviet Union in economic de- velopment."

The progress has been possible because of the planned and nationali- zed economy, which is an endur- ing consequence of the October 1917 revolution.

The parasitic caste that took hold of the Soviet government under Stalin reversed many of the pro- gressive measures of the Bolshev- iks that had ended national oppression among Asian and other non-Russian peoples. In addition, most of the former Russian lands in these areas suffer under the unde- mocratic policies and bureaucratic misrule that victimizes all working people in the Soviet Union.

But in their struggle against the Afghan ultrarightists, the Central Asian peoples will not look for leadership from the reactionary land- lords, usurers, and opium smugglers that have kept the Af- ghan peoples uneducated, hungry, disease-ridden, landless, and unem- ployed.

From Intercontinental Press/Inpress}
By Ernest Harsch

The British colonial authorities now administering Zimbabwe have openly approved the South African military intervention into that country.

At a news conference in Salisbury January 10, a spokesman for British Governor Lord Soames said that a South African contingent—estimated to number from 200 to 300 troops—was based in southern Zimbabwe near the border with South Africa with Soames's authorization. He claimed that its purpose was to protect the rail and road bridge connecting the two countries at Beitbridge.

The decision was sharply denounced by both wings of the Patriotic Front, the Zimbabwe nationalist alliance. Joshua Nkomo of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Robert Mugabe of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) condemned the intervention as a violation of the cease-fire accords that were signed in December.

The South African troops at Beitbridge are not the only ones in Zimbabwe. Before the cease-fire agreement was reached, up to 2,000 South African troops and police were directly assisting the Rhodesian military in its war against the Patriotic Front forces. They served as pilots, gunners, drivers, technicians, and artillery officers.

According to the Patriotic Front, these South African units have not been withdrawn, but have instead dissolved directly into the Rhodesian armed forces.

The South African intervention is a serious threat to the more than 6 million Blacks of Zimbabwe, who are struggling to win national independence and to wrest power out of the hands of the 200,000 white Rhodesians. In recent months, the white supremacist regime in Pretoria has warned several times that it would intervene with even greater force if a Black government came to power in Southern Africa. Rhodesia does not fall to Marxist influence...whatever moral and financial resources it can to ensure that Rhodesia does not fall to Marxist influence...We see Bishop Muzorewa as the best hope for stability in our generation...Lord Soames and the 1,200-man Commonwealth military force stationed in Zimbabwe claim that they are playing a "neutral" role and simply preparing for the elections and the granting of formal independence. But whatever moral and financial resources it can to ensure that Rhodesia does not fall to Marxist influence, the British have likewise sought to deepen the frictions between the two wings of the Patriotic Front, taking a harder line against the ZANU forces. These measures, however, have not been particularly successful so far in dampering the mass liberation struggle. Since mid-December, there have been repeated mass demonstrations in the major cities. The day before, 20,000 ZANU and ZAPU guerrillas have reported.

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From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

By David Russell

The Soviet government's expulsion of Moscow from dissident Andrei Sakharov is an attack against the interests of workers and peasants throughout the Soviet Union. It deserves the condemnation of working-class organizations throughout the world.

The Stalinist bureaucrats in the Kremlin accused Sakharov of "carrying out an unpopular campaign against the Soviet state." They charged that he had "abandoned the policies of the party, including the defense of the socialist state." They threatened to denounce opposition to the government as "counter-revolutionary" if the people continued to support him.

To the bureaucrats, it was a subversion of the very laws against which Sakharov "abandoned" the suppression of political freedom in the Soviet Union. He has helped expose frame-up trials against dissident artists and scientists, the jailing of government opponents in "political trials," and the refusal of the government to grant a fair trial to Sakharov.

For the United States, the expulsion of Sakharov weakens the Soviet Union's hold on freedom and democracy. It is a blow to the Soviet masses. It is a blow to the Soviet workers, the gains they have made through abolishing capitalism, and against workers and peasants throughout the world.

Thus, Carter's Olympic boycott is an act of hostility not only against the Soviet government, but also against the Soviet workers, the gains they have made through abolishing capitalism, and against workers and peasants throughout the world.

Sakharov has been politically a "neutral," a "stalemate," a "no-man's-land" in Moscow, and a "no-man's-land" in the world. He was only one of the many thousands of people who have been arrested and thrown in jail for their opposition to the Soviet government.

The only effective way to answer Sakharov's views on Afghanistan is by publicly explaining and debating the real issues there. That's how a revolutionary government in the Soviet Union would respond to political views it opposed. Such an open discussion would strengthen the position of the Soviet workers state internationally, and help to solidify support for the Afghan revolution among Soviet workers and peasants.

But the privileged caste that rules the Soviet Union fears any open discussion. Free thought and debate is a direct challenge to the bureaucratic and undemocratic means by which they hold onto power and deny democracy to the Soviet working class.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

Vilification of Sakharov weakens Soviet Union's hold on freedom and democracy.
By Caryn Swan and Jane Roland

MIAMI—Speaking at a news conference here January 24, Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley launched a special campaign of the Socialist Workers Party against right-wing terrorists.

Pulley demanded that Carter direct federal authorities to put a stop to the right-wing anti-Cuba terrorism that threatens all those who favor normalization of relations with Cuba. (See text of statement below.)

Pulley was here heading up a delegation of Socialist Workers preparing to leave on a fact-finding trip to Cuba. His call against terrorism and his plans to visit Cuba received much attention in the media.

El Miami Herald, the daily Spanish-language edition of the Miami Herald, ran an article headlined "Socialist fights terrorism." It explained Pulley's call for a campaign against right-wing violence in Miami, in North Carolina, and around the country.

The socialist presidential nominee was also covered by the Miami Times, a Black newsweekly, and by local TV and radio.

On January 25, Pulley and several campaign supporters visited the housing hall of the International Longshoremen's union. Pulley wanted to speak with the workers about the reactionary boycott of Soviet cargos and ships called by U.S. bureaucrats in response to Soviet troops fighting right-wing gangs in Afghanistan.

For almost two hours the 300 Black workers at the hall crowded around, talking with Pulley. The issue of Afghanistan was not seen as an immediate one since Soviet ships are not common here. But the workers voiced strong opposition to war.

"It was just another 'preparing us for war' talk," said one. "We've been hearing that for a while now from Carter. And guess who he wants to go fight this war over all: Blacks and other poor people."

"I'd rather go to prison than to war," said another. They snapped up the campaign brochures and letterleaf. Opposition to war and opposition to a new draft were the focus of Pulley's talk at the campaign rally that night. Nearly fifty people came to the send-off rally, where Pulley explained why he and other socialists were visiting Cuba. He promised to return and tell the American people about the advances of the Cuban revolution.

"Lies are the rule of thumb for capitalist politicians when they are addressing the people. It is exactly the opposite that prevails here."

Pulley said he planned to tour the United States from one end to the other explaining the gains made by the Cuban revolution—free health care, free education, minimum rent costs, full employment, the end to racism, and real gains for women's equality.

The following statement was released in Miami by Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate for the United States, before leaving for Havana, Cuba, for a week-long tour of the island:

I am here today to demand that President Carter direct federal authorities to put a stop to the wave of assassinations and bombings being carried out by right-wing, anti-Cuba terrorists against all those who favor normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba. Two months, and yet not a single terrorist has been brought to justice.

For months, Negrin reported to authorities he was receiving death threats and asked for protection—but to no avail. Omega 7, the Cuban exile terrorist gang, took credit for the murder.

In the last year alone, Omega 7 has claimed responsibility for six bombings. Just two weeks ago they set off bombs at Miami's Padron Cigar factory, and the New York offices of a Soviet airline, Aeroflot. Their aim is to silence supporters of the Cuban revolution.

The attacks by the anti-Cuba terrorists, like the violent acts of the KKK, are an attack on all working people—on our right to learn the truth, to say what we think, and to organize.

Working people know we can learn a lot from Cuba, where everyone is guaranteed a job and racism is outlawed. Our interests lie in learning the truth about the Cuban revolution, in lifting the blockade, and in normalizing relations between our two countries.

I am issuing an appeal today to the trade union, civil rights, and women's liberation movements, and to everyone who supports basic human and democratic rights, to join forces in launching a campaign to force the federal government to act to halt these terrorist attacks. Further delay in appealing these assassins will be nothing less than the out-and-out government complicity in these heinous crimes.

The $50,000 fund drive to launch the Socialist Workers Party Leadership School got an inspir­ ing start as five people contributed $10,000 each to the $10,800 raised last year by the Evelyn Reed Scholarship Fund, the new contributions put the fund at $22,000. Not every library will be in a position to contribute large amounts, however, and the fund's success depends on more modest donations to meet the goal. One timely way to contribute is to donate tax refunds.

The leadership school aims to free SWP leaders from their heavy daily responsibilities for four-month sessions of intensive study of basic Marx–Engels ideas.

On Saturday, February 23, the New York/New Jersey District of the SWP plans a fund-raising evening for the school and send-off party for several students from the area.

Paul Montauk, who is organizing the school's library, reports that two enthusiastic supporters of the school have donated books. He says the school welcomes more such gifts and especially needs complete sets of basic Marx, Engels, and related works.

The school begins March 1. The fund drive ends March 31. Please fill out the coupon and contribute all you can.

THE MILITANT/FEBRUARY 8, 1980
N.C. officials try to sabotage anti-Klan march

By Marco Dixon

GREENSBORO, Jan. 30—Governor Jim Hunt mounted a campaign to sabotage the February 2 anti-Klan march here. The government officials launched their campaign against the demonstration date near midnight, aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation around the civil rights march.

The march was called to protest the brutal murder of five anti-Klan demonstrators last November in Greensboro. The attack occurred when the group marched on the city's downtown to protest a Ku Klux Klan rally held the day before.

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The Ku Klux Klan is best known for the violence it has unleashed against African American workers. Throughout its history, the racist organization has been involved in criminal activities, including murder, arson, and terrorism. It is estimated that the Klan has a long, horrible record of criminal activity and has been responsible for hundreds of deaths and injuries.

Walter Miller, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said, "The Ku Klux Klan is a sickening and shocking reminder of the continued activity of its members who are engaged in acts of violence. They are trying to undermine the civil rights movement and the progress that has been made.

In response to KKK organizing efforts in eastern North Carolina, the United Mine Workers Journal ran an expose by editor Don Stillman of the KKK. The expose was based on information gathered from undercover agents who infiltrated the organization.

The KKK has been involved in a number of cases involving murder and attempted murder. In one case, a Ku Klux Klan member was charged with the murder of a black man in South Carolina. The murder occurred during a KKK rally in which the group was attempting to intimidate local residents.

The KKK has also been involved in activities such as burning crosses and intimidating African American activists. In one incident, a group of Klansmen burned a cross on the front lawn of a black family who had just moved into the neighborhood.

In another case, the KKK was involved in a plot to murder a black activist who was organizing a civil rights march. The plot was uncovered by federal agents who were investigating the activities of the group.

The KKK has long been involved in acts of violence and intimidation. In the 1920s and 1930s, the group was responsible for the murder of several black leaders and activists. In recent years, the organization has continued to operate in a number of areas, including the South and the Midwest.

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SWP ballot drive big success in N. Carolina

By Rebecca Finch and Holbrook Mahn

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—In just thirteen days, socialist campaigners collected 18,744 signatures, nearly double the 10,000 requirement to place the Socialist Workers Party on the North Carolina ballot in 1980.

The success of this effort is an important victory for working people in North Carolina. It confirms that workers in the South, as elsewhere, are looking for new ways to fight the government’s drive against their living standards. And they are more open to socialist ideas than ever before.

Socialist campaign supporters around the country were inspired by this perspective. Forty-two came, some from as far as the Iron Range in northern Minnesota, to help campaign here.

SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley flew in to help in the second week of the drive. He was filmed by four television stations as he petitioned in Raleigh and Winston-Salem.

Petitioning teams on campuses in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Charlotte found strong resistance to Carter’s moves to reinitiate the draft. “We’re the kind of people who are against the draft,” one petitioner explained as he asked students to sign. One student at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte had hung a banner out of his dormitory window. It said “Stop this war before it starts.”

In Raleigh, the North Carolina Drive for Peace, a member of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign committee, worked with several Anti-Klan groups and Against the Draft groups on a common goal. The Anti-Klan committee, led by Lynn B. Cook of the Piedmont Young Socialist Alliance, was seen petitioning on three different television stations.

The campaign organized for petitioners to set up socialist literature tables on campus.

The drive was organized to be completed in as short a time as possible. “This was important,” Miller said. “By organizing a short drive, and at the same time not overprojecting what was possible to collect day to day, we were able to focus all our energy on petitioning and inspire those who participated to put out an extra effort. Everyone knew the daily goal and saw by the charts in the campaign headquarters where we stood. This helped us stay on schedule if problems arose.”

Full-time petitioners—mostly laid-off workers—collected the bulk of the signatures. And a crew of employed industrial workers, who petitioned before or after work, made a substantial contribution to the collective goal.

Lowe learned about the drive from the television coverage of a January 3 press conference announcing the party’s plans to get on the ballot. He came to the socialist campaign office the next day to see how he could help and has been petitioning all day, every day, since.

Lowe is now the newest member of the Piedmont Young Socialist Alliance. He is part of a team of socialist campaigners who are now traveling throughout the Piedmont publicizing the February 2 Greenboro demonstration against Klan and Nazi violence.

Anti-Klan action

Throughout the petitioning effort, socialist campaigners talked to everyone they could about the February 2 march.

Petitioners found that many North Carolinians were inspired to see people standing up to the Klan and protesting the government’s inaction against the right-wing thugs.

The North Carolina drive was a big challenge—especially since the Socialist Workers Party had never petitioned here before. Jeff Miller, SWP candidate for Congress in the Ninth Congressional District, explained that “careful planning was the key to the drive’s success. We wanted to make sure that the petitioners, all of whom put out big effort, weren’t fused with any unnecessary obstacle.”

How drive was organized

North Carolina, like many states, doesn’t have many places with large concentrations of people. So finding petitioning sites was an important part of the preparation. Several members of the campaign committee were responsible for mapping out key petitioning sites throughout the state.

“We petitioned on campuses, on street corners, and outside the huge R.J. Reynolds tobacco plant gate,” Miller explained. “And when the rain started to pour, we petitioned in the neighborhoods door to door.”

The drive was designed to include some new and some old working-class areas, as well as some new places for the SWP to establish a presence.

Winning new supporters

This ballot drive has introduced thousands of people to socialist ideas. And it gives working people here a real choice in the 1980 elections.

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UAW women demand rights

Battle for ERA heating up in Missouri

By Bruce Lesnick

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - The 1980 fight for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri opened with a bang Jan. 15. Nearly 1,000 supporters and opponents of the ERA converged on the state capitol here to participate in a hearing called by the Missouri Senate Constitutional Amendment Committee.

Groups began descending on the capital early in the day for the evening hearings. Most of the participants were supporters of the ERA, led by Stop ERA, who held a rally and prayer meeting in the capitol rotunda.

But as the time for the hearings grew closer, the sound of ERA supporters dwindled and the ranks of ERA supporters swelled. Speaking at the arrival of pro-ERA forces were two busloads of United Auto Workers from St. Louis and Kansas City. The sixty-five UAW members fanned out through the capitol to counter the presence of Stop ERA forces.

Members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women posted signs on railings, columns, and walls reading: "ERA's importance for Black women. Since the backing given by women's organizations to the Equal Rights Amendment included Bishop Michael McAuliffe, Sister Mary Ann Sedey of the Missouri ERA Coalition, and Charles Curry, a former judge."

Speaking against the ERA were Phyllis Schlafly, national chair of Stop ERA; Norma Tracy of the Missouri Citizens Council, organized by the Mormon Church; and John Birch, law professor at Washington University. Three anti-abortion groups had representatives testifying, and a retired U.S. Army brigadier general also opposed the ERA.

After each side had presented its schedule, the remaining time was given to speakers from the floor.

Martha Pettit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Missouri, addressed the hearing, emphasizing the support of working people for the ERA. A member of UAW Local 51 in Kansas City, Pettit also spoke about the successful labor march for the ERA in Richmond, Virginia, on Jan. 13.

The hearing here was different than previous ones around the labor, civil rights, religious, and academic figures.

Joan Krauskopf, professor of law at the University of Missouri-Columbia, explained, in terms of wages, layoffs, and unemployment, "When you deny the rights of one segment of the labor force, you deny the rights of the whole of the labor force," stated Daniel McVey, executive treasurer of the Missouri AFL-CIO.

Jean Krasskopf, professor of law at the University of Missouri-Columbia, emphasized that the majority of Americans and Missourians back the ERA. As well as finding antiration of the amendment included Bishop Michael McAuliffe, Sister Mary Ann Sedey of the Missouri ERA Coalition, and Charles Curry, a former judge.

By Diane Groth

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.-The atmosphere at the statehouse here on January 15, the day of the Equal Rights Amendment hearing, was tense. You could tell from the feeling in the air that a battle was about to be fought.

Members of the United Auto Workers arrived early in the day. We had come back to legislators before the hearing began and to position ourselves by the area here next time. Nineteen thousand auto workers are currently laid off in our area area alone.

At the hearing, Stop ERA head Phyllis Schlafly argued that "ERA is a demand for equality whose time has passed." ERA is a slogan whose time has passed, it doesn't belong in the Constitution.

Schlafly is dead wrong. ERA is what the working people of this country want. You could see it in the fighting spirit of our union members who came to the capitol on Jan. 15. You could see that for us ERA is a demand for equality whose time is now.

Anti-ERA rally in Va.

In the wake of the successful labor march for the Equal Rights Amendment of more than 1,000 people held in Richmond, Virginia, January 13, opponents of the ERA attempted to rally their forces on January 17.

The result? According to Militant correspondent Mike McVey, the anti-ERA forces mustered only about 700 people for their RichmondCLUW&NOW.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Virginia State Steering Committee of the National ERA Coalition. Literature from Phyllis Schlafly's Stop ERA, as well as the racist, anti-union John Birch Society, was in abundance.

Bay Area CLUW, NOW: ERA, yes!

By Ruth Cheney

SAN FRANCISCO—More than 250 people braved one of the Bay Area's worst storms to attend a rally for the Equal Rights Amendment here Jan. 11. The rally was organized by the Bay Area chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Endorsed by four labor councils and more than ninety unions, the meeting was held in solidarity with the Jan. 15 labor march for the ERA in Richmond, Virginia (see last week's Militant). A NOW activist on her way to the Richmond demonstration was presented with thousands of signatures in support of ERA ratification in Virginia.

John Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, spoke enthusiastically to the crowd about the added muscle women are bringing to the labor movement in terms of numbers and their political fight for ERA.

NOW state coordinator Karen Peters welcomed the unionists present and said it would take the combined power of the labor and women's movement to achieve ERA ratification.

When Clevean Dudley, vice-president of United Transportation Union Local 31 spoke, some twenty rail workers in the audience cheered and held up signs hailing the ERA and women's growing presence in the rail yards.

Other speakers were Jeannine Whitlock, United Steelworkers; Chuck McDonald, United Auto Workers; Walter Johnson, Department Store Employees; and actress Joan Hackett. The rally was chaired by CLUW and NOW chapter presidents.

CLUW activists were especially pleased with the meeting, which helped them to build their chapters throughout the Bay Area and demonstrated the key role CLUW can play in the labor movement.
Chicago school teachers: 'no pay, no work'

By Tony Dutrow

DETROIT—As of 6 p.m., January 15, 10,000 represented Chicago teachers were on strike nationwide.

Budd, a German-owned company since 1978, is a major auto parts manufacturer covered by the Independent Parts and Suppliers department of the United Auto Workers. The company’s world headquarters is in Troy, Michigan.

This is the first nationwide strike against Budd in twenty-two years. The workers are calling it a lockout. Since the November 2 opening of bargaining, the company has made only one proposal—one modeled after the Chrysler takeover agreement.

Budd workers are down in Ashland and Frankfurt, Ohio; Philadelphia and Red Lion, Pennsylvania; and Gary, Indiana. In this area, 2,100 workers are on strike in Detroit and 300 in Clinton, Michigan.

Budd is part of the general assault on auto workers’ union contracts, unemploy­ment, plant shutdowns, irregular work schedules, and company take­backs. On strike are more than 35,000 members of the UAW at International Harvester, now in the third month of their walkout. That farm equipment company is trying to eliminate a ban on forced overtime that was won four years ago by Harvester workers.

The attack on Budd workers is directly based on the Chrysler “survival” awards won years ago by Harvester workers. Currently, Budd workers are on strike at Ford and GM and in northeast Philadelphia, sees no problem with the UAW.

By Elizabeth Ziers

DETROIT—Joseph Toomer, who has worked at Budd Wheel here since 1948, believes “the Chrysler deal encouraged Budd to show a bad contract down our throats. Budd is certainly not in any financial trouble.”

As Toomer and others walked the picket line here, supervisors were going in and out of the gate. Why do they have to interfere with the UAW?”

While Robinson was talking, picket­er Jim Twomey was yelling, “Miserable scab!” at a supervisor driving through the gate. “Hell, down at Gate 2 they had two cop cars, a Pinkerton guard, and Budd security while rail­road top brass were moving the trains in and out,” Twomey said.

“This strike is going to be a long one,” he went on, “because they’re trying to break the union. They have plenty of stock piled up, and the orders from the auto companies are coming in. They’re going to try to starve us out.”

There was some discussion about whether Budd was making any money now. “They’re making profits,” said Gil Roberts. “They’re not making as many as we want, that’s all. They dragged their feet until the contract expired so the union would have to strike. It’s what you’d call an old capitulation.”

Over at strike headquarters, some strikers were talking angrily about a law that prevents other laid-off work­ers, even Budd workers, from walking the picket lines with them. So-called caretaker agreements deny a worker’s right to unemployment bene­fits.

Philadelphia

By John Wernitz

PHILADELPHIA—Five thousand auto workers at two Budd plants are on strike here.

Thyssen A.G., the West German firm that owns Budd, recently fought the German Metal Workers Union in a bitter seventeen­week strike.

“They’re taking a hard line against us, too,” explained one picket, “but they’ve never come up against the United Auto Workers before.”

“Last night we saw the forearm flesh loading two rail cars,” said another as he pointed through the padlocked iron gates at a mass of boxes in and out by rail, it is vital to the strikers that the Conrail train crews of the United Trans­portation Union, honor their picket lines.

UAW Local 92 President Bill Hill, from the Red Lion Road plant in northeast Philadelphia, sees no prob­lem, saying that “traditionally, the UTU members have been good union brothers and sisters.”

Budd is out to exhaust the UAW ranks. In a calculated move, the com­pany called back 600 workers from layoff two days before the contract expired. Pennsylvania law denies these workers unemployment benefits while on strike. Many of the 600 went from $160 a week unemployment bene­fits to $150 a week strike benefits.

The recalled workers, explained Local 813 President Henry Grym, from the Hunting Park Avenue plant, “were put on jobs that were not ready to run, the material wasn’t there, there was no effort to get the jobs running.”

A Black unionist on the picket line says, “Budd needs us to start tooling up for the 1981 model soon. If they wait too long, they’re going to lose their contracts with Ford and General Motors. As long as we all stick together, we can win.”

UAW strikers fight Chrysler-style takebacks

By Gil Roberts

THE MILITANT/FEBRUARY 8, 1980
Nelson Gonzalez

in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

members of Laborers International

Alliance, antinuclear groups in New

the Pilgrim Alliance and Clamshell

Union Local 721 refused on January 17

Cold war

Cold war has been declared by our
country," Vera Williams of the New

York War Resisters League told the
coalition meeting. "Washington intro­
duced naval fleets into the Persian

Gulf. Carter threatened atomic war,
they are developing new first-strike

nuclear weaponry and they threaten to

readies to the draft. All of these ques­
tions will be focused on in the April

activity everyone has a right to respect a

Negro, a leader of the Lone Star Alliance

of Texas. Under the urging of Jerry Gordon,
the meeting voted to send a letter to

trade unions all over the country
asking them to endorse and take part
in the April 26 march. Gordon is execu­
tive assistant to the director of Region

2 of the United Electrical, Radio and

Commercial Workers Union.

Trade union locals in Washington
and New York are working in the

national coalition and it has been
endorced by William Winpisinger, pres­
ident of the International Association

of Machinists.

Together with a similarly successful

meeting of western states antinuclear
activists in Oakland, California, the

previous weekend, this march showed that
organizations the length and

breadth of the land are gearing up for

a massive show of solidarity.

nuclear energy three months from

now.

A leaflet listing those already taking
part in Coalition for a Non-Nuclear

World activities shows 14 national
organzations and 142 local and regional
organizations in thirty-nine

states and three provinces of Canada.

These groups include political, trade
union, student, religious, pacifist,
feminist, black, and Native American
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ronmental and antinuclear alliances
which form the nucleus of the coal­

ition. Also addressing the Washing­

ton meeting was a speaker from the
Downwind Alliance in Windsor, Onta­
rio. The alliance got its name from the

fact that Windsor is downwind from the

Fertl plant near Detroit that had a

nearly disastrous partial meltdown in

1969.

Ontario-wide demonstrations are
planned for April 26 in Toronto. The

same day, a conference on the envi­

ronmental and health dangers of
uranium mining is planned for

Brock University.

An enthusiastic welcome was given
as well to members of the Three Mile

Island March 26 Coalition. On March

28-30, the first anniversary of the

nuclear accident, demonstrations are
planned in Harrisburg and at Three Mile

Island to close down this nuclear facility

for good. Those who cannot attend these

activities were urged to hold protests

and wear armbands in their own

communities. These events can help pave

the way for the April 26-28 demonstra­
tions.

Five demands

Besides the Saturday march and
rally April 26, a nonviolent civil dis­

New from Pathfinder: a weapon in
the anti-nuclear fight

What are the dangers of nuclear
radiation? What caused the Three
Mile Island nuclear accident? What
are the alternatives to nuclear power?
This pamphlet answers these and
other questions about the
problems and dangers of nuclear
power.

Also included is a statement "What
We Can Do To End Nuclear Power" by
Andrew Puzil, Socialist Workers Party
candidate for president.

40 pp. $1.50
Order from Pathfinder Press, 410
West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.
Enclose $1.50 for postage.

D.C. meeting boosts Apr

Nuclear workers honor picket line

By Dick Roberts

WASHINGTON—Antinuclear activ­
ists from throughout the country met here
January 25-27 to push forward plans
for the April 26 March on Washington
for a Non-Nuclear World.

They came from Texas and the Da­
koras, from a number of midwestern
states, and from most of the East
Coast. Shirts, buttons, and brochures
promoting the action were taken up in

quantities. The more than one hundred
participants were eager to go back to

the regions and build the April protest.

The gathering was an open coordi­
nating committee meeting of the na­
tional Coalition for a Non-Nuclear

World.

Extensive discussion on the organi­
zational structure of the coalition gave
the go-ahead to the Washington staff

and task forces for an all-out campaign
to build the march.

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the attempt to reimpose the draft, and

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obedience activity is planned at the Department of Energy April 28. A week of congressional lobbying is also going on, and in every way educating on a local level to explain to everyone the nuclear danger and to build April 26-28.

The national antinuclear demonstration is being planned for March 25-26, international demonstrations are planned for March 25-26, international demonstrations are planned for Canada, Brazil, and eight European nations.

In Europe, antinuclear forces intend to march either on their own or as part of the U.S. embassies in Holland, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, England, West Germany, and France.

Two of the people who played key roles in helping to bring about this plan for an unprecedented demonstration of international solidarity are Ada Sanchez and Kitty Tucker, who are also central leaders of the U.S. Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World. Both have traveled to Europe and spoken in a number of countries about the antinuclear movement.

The desire of European activists to build April 26-28 protests was greatly intensified by the imposition of the U.S. Phasing-Out and Cruise missiles on NATO that took place in November, Sanchez told the Militant.

...Livermore

Continued from back page

Dr. John Gofman, one of the discoverers of plutonium and a former employee at Livermore, said plutonium will ignite spontaneously in air. Geologists who examined the quake emphasized the fact that the area around Livermore has a number of active faults, some of which may run under the lab.

John Rutherford, a structural engineer who had inspected Building 332 the day before the June hearing, said that far from being impregnable, Building 332 didn’t meet state earthquake code requirements, the lab, he said, was built like a cardboard box. He documented this assertion in detail.

A fact-finding team led by George Johnson, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from California, went to Livermore January 25 after the first earthquake.

The laboratory itself was shut down temporarily and the visitors center was closed due to quake damage.

Almost everyone Johnson talked to was worried about the possibility of a new and more damaging earthquake. Many, who had believed the official line about the safety of the region before, now were considering moving.

Some of the destruction caused by the quake included the Sunrise Mobile Home park where 60 of 105 homes were left from their foundations. Most of the people living in the park were elderly residents who had been housed in a Red Cross emergency evacuation center. Few were covered by insurance. At the Greenville Road overpass on Interstate 580 there was a huge gap where part of the highway had sunk almost six feet.

A woman from the Safety Alliance for the Valley Environment (SAVE) told the Militant that she thought there was possibly a credibility gap in the information the laboratory was giving to the people. She said, “It’s scary because you just don’t know what’s going on. We should at least be allowed information to make our own decisions. A friend of mine and I have both taken off on Thursday (the day of the first earthquake).”

“I’ve lived here nine years. There was an earthquake last August 6 about two hours before the Hiroshima rally and I thought about turning around and going the other way. You really feel threatened when something like this happens—they should just shut down the lab.”

George Johnson underlined that the lab and other facilities have been shut down for years that the nuclear facility is earthquake-proof.

There are eighty-eight laboratories, corporations, and military facilities licensed to handle radioactive materials in the seven Bay Area counties. Johnson said, “Any one of them could be sitting on an active fault and it’s just a matter of time before one of them goes, and a quake is big enough to cause a catastrophic nuclear accident some day.”

“We had two warnings this week. We should shut down these nuclear laboratories and research facilities immediately.”

Community activities are being planned for the week of congressional lobbying is also going on, and in every way educating on a local level to explain to everyone the nuclear danger and to build April 26-28.

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...Livermore
Nicaragua leader describes literacy drive

90,000 will learn to read and write

The following article is based on an interview obtained with Octavio Rivas, assistant minister of education, in Managua January 3.

The literacy campaign is something our people greatly need. We are going to organize some 1,000 literacy brigade members, but we actually need more. We estimate that between 850,000 and 900,000 persons above the age of ten do not know how to read. We need on average one brigade member for every four illiterates.

The human needs are very great, and we are hoping for the help of computers from around the world. Our problem is that we are undergoring an unprecedented economic crisis. According to the report prepared by the Latin American Economic Commission (CEPAL), a unit of the United Nations, this crisis is without equal in the history of any country in Latin America.

Economic crisis

This is a terrible crisis. We are a small country, with a debt approaching $1.8 billion. This is equivalent to the debt held by some countries with four times our population. That gives you an idea of the scope of the problem.

In addition, 40 percent of our industry lies in ruins, as well as 40 percent of our commercial establishments. In agriculture, in a crop as important as cotton, only 30 percent was planted last year, which means a loss of millions of dollars at the very least.

We are not totally ruined. We can reestablish agriculture in a year or two. Rebuilding our industry will take more time. In agriculture, in a crop as important as cotton, only 30 percent was planted last year, which means a loss of millions of dollars at the very least.

Cuban solidarity

The only possible solution is the one that has been worked out with the teacher colleagues from Cuba. Their government, in a genuine gesture of human solidarity, has undertaken to provide us with the training and personnel we need. We have provided the only things our country can offer—a roof over their heads, food, and our great affection.

We are very interested in having teaching colleagues come from a number of countries. You are well aware that inhibitors are around the world have violently criticized the presence of the Cubans. Here, of course, it is a totally different story. The pain and the others who are benefiting from Cuban solidarity have greeted those compañeros with open arms.

But internationally, the reactionaries have used their monopoly over the media to proclaim that the Cubans have come to spread their ideology. This is a maneuver designed to harry Nicaragua, to isolate us internationally, in the economic sphere and to refuse us the aid that other countries could easily provide. We want to initiate a counterattack, and are seeking teachers from all over the world.

This is the real spirit of our revolution, which is a broad and democratic revolution, that is going to lead us toward a different society, a structurally different society. We don't hide this; we are not trying to fool anyone.

We are planning to provide an education that is two years an education that is two years longer than that which was necessary was getting rid of the dictator.

Right to education

The literacy campaign that we are going to carry out in the first year of the revolution is a clear sign of the democratic character of this revolution, for the weapon of knowledge is going to enable each individual to be really free.

The right to education involves a whole series of other rights that only an educated person can enjoy—the right to participate in politics, to organize, to give one's opinion, and so forth.

In addition to the literacy campaign, we are planning to provide an education to more than 600,000 persons—that is, twice the present school population.

Imagine what that represents financially. The budget for education, the second largest after the budget for health care, will reach one billion córdobas (US$100 million) this year—three times what Somoa spent on education.

The literacy campaign will wind up July 31. The following day regular classes will begin again. We don't know where they will be held—under the trees, in the factories, who knows where—but this education will be provided.

Everyone is astonished that all this has already been planned for and prepared. The Cubans launched their literacy campaign two years after the revolution. We are moving faster.

We began in August 1979, two weeks after the victory over Somoza. We have plans for education. were ready. All that was necessary was getting rid of the dictator.

On the Atlantic coast, people speak three languages—Spanish, English, and Misquito. So, there we will be carrying out the literacy campaign in three languages.

This is all part of our culture, and we are going to use it and make every element of our culture. That means all the songs, dances, and fables—the entire oral culture—will be saved and preserved.

In closing, I would like to appeal to the teachers unions, to the trade unions in general, to ask that they donate an hour's pay in support of the literacy campaign. It is a concrete way of assuring its success.

From Intercontinental Press/Imprecor

Sol­li­di­ty with Ni­ca­ragua!

Boston to host regional conference

Sonia de Chamorro will give a public talk on Friday, February 8, at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Chamorro, who on tour in the United States from February 4-14, is fund-raising director for Nicaragua's National Literacy Crusade. Her talk will begin at 6 p.m. at Oatman Library, on Appian Way in Cambridge. That evening, at 7 p.m., the Phillips Brooks House at Harvard Yard is hosting a fund-raising reception for Chamorro.

The Boston Nicaragua Solidarity Committee is in the midst of a film series at Boston University to raise money for the literacy crusade. Last week, $300 was collected.

On February 23, the Boston University Free School, in conjunction with the solidarity committee, will hold a Northeast regional conference in solidarity with Nicaragua. The keynote speaker at 11 a.m. will be Hilde Siqueira, the Nicaraguan consul in Washington, D.C. Saturday afternoon there will be a series of workshops on such topics as literature and revolution, U.S. foreign policy in Latin America, and building the Nicaraguan solidarity movement.

Speakers at the workshops will include Jonathan Knoke, author of Children of Revolution, a book on the Cuban literacy drive; Howard Zin, Boston University professor; Larry Simon, OXPAAM-America, recently returned from studying agrarian reform in Nicaragua; and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Martin Diskin.

The February 23 conference is scheduled for the College of Basic Studies Auditorium at Boston University. For more information, call (617) 547-3810.

Chamorro to speak at Tulane in New Orleans

Sonia de Chamorro is scheduled to speak in New Orleans on Saturday, February 9. The "Discussion on Nicaragua's Literacy Campaign" is sponsored by the New Orleans Nicaragua Solidarity Organization and the Tulane University Latin American Studies Department. It will be at 7 p.m. at Richardson Hall on the Tulane campus.

New Orleans activities during the February 17-23 week of national solidarity include a requiem mass on February 21 and a February 24 public meeting sponsored by NONSO, where the slide show available from the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People will be shown.

Chamorro's other tour stops are: Miami on February 4, Washington, D.C. on February 5, New York City on February 7, Detroit on February 11-12, and San Francisco on February 13-14.

For more information, and to order the slide show and other solidarity materials, contact the National Network at 1322 Eighteenth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 223-2328.

Philadelphia group plans Feb. 29 rally

The Committee for a Free Nicaragua in Philadelphia plans a February 29 fund-raising rally at the Antioch College Extension, 401 North Broad Street at 8 p.m. The event will include a slide show available from the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People.

100 attend Milwaukee meeting

The Milwaukee Coalition to Aid Nicaraguan Democracy held its first public meeting January 24 at the Esperanza Unida, a Latino community center. Nearly 100 people turned out to hear Father Dan Kliman, who just returned from Nicaragua, and Father Peter Marchetti, who has accepted an invitation to visit Nicaragua to help with its agrarian reform program.

Also speaking was Bert Zemans, assistant editor of La Guardia, the largest Spanish-language paper in Milwaukee. A collection noted $200, and seventy people signed up to be informed of future activities.

Compiled by Nancy Cole

"Weapon of knowledge will enable each individual to be really free." —Militant/Fred Murphy
Eyewitness in El Salvador
Massacre fails to intimidate Salvadorans

By Gerhard Müller
SAN SALVADOR—I was among the hundreds of people trapped in the Metropolitan Cathedral after the military carried out a massacre against an enormous demonstration here January 22.

Inspired by the recent formation of the National Revolutionary Coordinating Committee (CNR), which involves the four main leftist organizations in El Salvador, the LH-28, FAPU, BPR, and ORDEN, hundreds of thousands took to the streets on January 22 in the first united demonstration convoked by the four organizations.

Although right-wing terror groups had vowed to stop the demonstration, the demonstration was by far the largest action held in El Salvador during the more than fifty years this country has been governed by military juntas.

The protesters chanted “Nicaragua won, El Salvador will win!” “The fascist military junta will die when the revolution comes!” “All power to the workers and peasants!” and “Long live revolutionary unity!”

The demonstrators marched in a completely peaceful demonstration through the most important streets of the capital.

The majority of the demonstrators were youths, peasants who had come into the capital from the countryside, as well as teachers, students, farm dwellers, and market vendors.

During the demonstration, a clandestine radio station, the Revolutionary People’s Radio, broadcast for almost two hours.

At about 1 p.m., when the FAU-CNR contingent was passing the National Palace in the center of the capital, National Guard troops opened fire from the balconies of the palace, instantly killing or wounding many persons.

There is absolutely no doubt that the massacre was started by the Salvadoran army. It was carried out simultaneously from several locations, and apparently the whole operation was directed by officers in army helicopters circling over the crowd.

When the shooting began, I was standing on the roof of the Metropolitan Cathedral, sixty meters away from the National Palace.

Demonstrators instantly sought cover wherever they could. More than 300 demonstrators managed to get into the cathedral, which had been occupied earlier by the FAPU.

For more than an hour the shooting continued, and for more than five hours the cathedral was surrounded by the army, which was apparently cooperatively carrying out the right-wing terror organizations ORDEN and the White Warrior Unions (UIP).

The interior of the cathedral was a nightmare. Bullets from the National Guard’s German-produced G-3 rifles penetrated the windows and doors.

The bodies of slain peasants lay on the floor. Ten or more demonstrators were wounded. Those of us inside sought cover wherever possible.

Through the windows, one could see bodies of murdered demonstrators scattered around the square in front of the National Palace.

The situation was critical. There was no food, nor medicine to treat the wounded. But at no time did people panic. Discipline, organization, and confidence in the revolutionary leadership were beyond description.

About fifteen journalists from Europe and Latin America were among those inside the cathedral. Using the loudspeakers of the church, each of us appealed to the Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, and the Salvadoran diplomatic corps to do everything possible to guarantee the safety of everyone inside the cathedral.

After about an hour and a half, a Red Cross team was allowed to enter the cathedral to bring out the wounded. Finally, after five hours, the rest of the demonstrators were escorted away by the Red Cross.

After the attack on the demonstration, more than 40,000 participants, mostly peasants from outside the capital, sought refuge inside the campus of San Salvador University.

About an hour and a half later, the military launched a new siege, this time against the university, which was totally cut off. Snipers fired into the campus, killing a member of the LH-28 and wounding several others. Incendiaries were sprayed over the people by military airplanes.

Later, the organization and discipline of the Salvadoran revolutionaries impressed me enormously. Although many had not eaten for two days, and despite the intense pressure from the military encirclement of the campus, the people maintained the organization.

There were absolutely no signs of panic; on the contrary, time was spent in political discussions and organization of self-defense groups. Everyone remained calm.

It was thus a major political victory for the military, after ten hours of siege, had to give in to public pressure, and the查封 of the university, which was totally cut off. Snipers fired into the campus, killing a member of the LH-28 and wounding several others. Incendiaries were sprayed over the people by military airplanes.

Nevertheless, the workers and peasants of El Salvador are under attack on the economic front as well. The country is in a deep economic crisis, with many basic items of consumption in short supply or unaffordable.

Unemployment is rising steadily, and local and foreign capitalists sub­trate the economy. An estimated $100 million in capital was sent out of the country in the last three months of 1979 alone.

In an effort to appear to be doing something to stop the flight of capital, the junta announced January 9 the creation of a new economic body in the country, which apparently declared that they are in favor of agrarian reform and nationalization of other sectors of the economy.

These measures are a case of too little, too late.

While there have not yet been major military confrontations, the government over the past several months has been evicting peasants from the countryside, as well as teachers, students, farm dwellers, and market vendors.

More than 200,000 turned out for January 22 antigovernment demonstration in San Salvador.

The CNR at the same time declared a three-day nationwide period of mourning and protest strike. The bodies of the slain were carried to the cathedral, where Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero celebrated a mass.

Official figures claim that only twenty persons were killed during the massacre. This number is far below the real toll. At the university and in the cathedral I saw at least fifteen dead. There is no doubt that the Salvadoran junta is lying when it puts the number of victims so low.

On January 24 the junta held a news conference and denied any participation in the massacre. Antonio Morales Echeñique, a Christian Democrat and junta member, put all the blame on members of the extreme right. Later this story was contradicted by the junta, who claimed that some police at the National Palace had fired “in self-defense.”

The junta, its Christian Democratic supporters, and the capital’s landlord oligarchy are more isolated than ever, and the Salvadoran workers and peasants are organizing and preparing for further battles.

From intercontinental Press/Incorporated

U.S. armed military junta

The bloody repression unleashed by the Salvadoran military junta has the full support of the U.S. government. The day after the January 22 massacre, Robert White, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, met behind closed doors with the country’s military rulers.

A source close to the Salvadoran government... said that they discussed the possibility of the United States sending military aid: the New York Spanish-language daily El Diario reported.

White House backing has not been limited to promises. On Janu­ary 24, U.S. Undersecretary of State William G. Bowdler flew to San Salvador to demonstrate the Carter administration’s political support to the junta.

At the end of Bowdler’s visit, the regime announced that the prom­ised U.S. aid would amount to “millions of dollars.”

At a January 26 news conference in Managua, Nicaragua, Bowdler declared, “The United States supports the [Salvadoran] govern­ment,” and he claimed that the regime “is pressing forward basic reforms for social and economic development, respect for human rights, and a return to constitutions­ality.”

But El Salvador’s ruling classes showed long ago that they are incapable of governing peacefully. Washington’s dollars are aimed at strengthening the repressive military apparatus to enable the junta to carry out even greater attacks on El Salvador’s working people.

THE MILITANT/FEBRUARY 8, 1980
What road to Mideast peace?

By August Nimtz (sixth of a series)

On September 18, 1978, President Carter addressed a special joint session of Congress, hailing the conclusion the night before of the Camp David agreements signed by President Sadat of Egypt, Prime Minister Begin of Israel, and Carter. "The guns will fall silent," Carter declared. "The bombs will no longer fall.

But since the signing of the accords, Israeli air and artillery attacks on Palestinian refugee camps and on Arab towns and villages in Lebanon have continued on a regular basis. Hundreds of people, including many children, have been killed and thousands wounded. The hundreds of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians who were driven from their homes during the Israeli invasion of March 1978 have been prevented from returning.

The editor of An Nahar, Lebanon's largest newspaper, explained how the group of visiting Americans last summer the real meaning of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty of March 1979—the major group of visiting Americans. "The United States represents the peace treaty as a constraint on Israel, but it has provided them with a license to kill. It serves as a cover for Israel to intensify and diversify its attacks on us, striking at will." (Seven Days, September 23).

Why has the euphoria that originally greeted the Camp David agreement given way to disillusionment? Why has Camp David failed to bring peace to the Middle East?

Because the sponsors of the Camp David accords never had any intention of seriously addressing the fundamental issue—self-determination for the Palestinians.

Issue of self-determination

Israel was established at the expense of the Palestinians. More than a million of them have been driven from their homeland, beginning in 1948, to make way for the exclusive Jewish state. As a result, Palestinians live either as second-class citizens in Israel, or under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, or as homeless and destitute refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

Without their own homeland, and existing at best as the sufferance of others, the Palestinians are a people who lack the basic right to decide their own affairs.

As long as Palestinians live in such circumstances, they will continue to fight against their oppression. The Israeli attempt to maintain the unjust status quo will lead the Zionist regime to launch new aggressive or attacks on Lebanon, and new Middle East wars.

Clearly, then, there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinians obtain the right to self-determination.

The simple truth is that the Camp David agreements provided no basis for the Palestinians to decide for themselves. This was exactly how the problem began in the first place. Every major decision about the Palestinians, beginning with the Balfour declaration in 1917—the promise of a Jewish settlement of Palestine that Britain made to the Zionist movement—has been made without their consent. Camp David continues this ignominious tradition.

The understandable decision by Palestinians not to participate in the current talks, given these conditions, and the obstinacy of Israel to any proposal that might lead to real self-determination for the Palestinians means that peace has not and cannot emerge from these negotiations.

Diamonite Zionist state

Any real solution to the Middle East crisis must begin with the recognition that any institution or organization that prevent Palestinians from exercising self-determination must be eliminated. In other words, the Israeli state, which is constructed on the basis of special privileges for Jews at the expense of the Arabs, must be dismantled.

Does this mean the destruction or expulsion of Israeli Jews?

Definitely not! Contrary to what Zionists claim, the aim of the Palestinian liberation movement is not "to slaughter Jews" or "throw them into the sea." The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an influential Palestinian group, stated unequivocally in its program on July 1, 1969: "The Palestinian liberation movement is not a racial movement with aggressive intentions against the Jews. It is not directed against the Jews. Its object is to destroy the state of Israel as a military, political, and economic establishment which rests on aggression, expansion and organic connection with imperialist interests in our homeland."

What then is to replace Israel? Al Fatah, the largest component of the PLO, calls for a democratic secular Palestine. Al Fatah's view was expressed in its 1970 document, "Towards a Democratic State in Palestine: "All the Jews, Moors and Christians living in Palestine or forcibly expelled from it will have the right to Palestinian citizenship..."

A Jewish state that does not allow oppression or exploitation of any group of people by any other group or individual; a state that provides equal opportunities for its people in work, worship, education, political decision-making, and cultural and artistic expression.

To make such a Palestine a reality, the new state will include all territories that originally comprised Palestine—the present Israeli state and the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The establishment of such a Palestine will require the mobilization of the masses who have the most to gain—the Palestinian Arab working class and its peasant allies, along with Israeli Jewish workers. A successful struggle by these groups, in alliance with the Arab revolution as a whole, will inevitably bring them into conflict with the forces that benefit the most from the maintenance of Israeli-imperialism and its local allies, the Israeli and Arab ruling classes.

Revolutionary struggle

To achieve its democratic goals, the struggle of the masses will infringe upon the interests of the bourgeoisie minority and its imperialist allies. In other words, the revolution will have to continue uninterruptedly toward a socialist conclusion.

What are the chances that a struggle can be successfully waged? That depends, first of all, on organizing the masses in support of the goal of the liberation of Palestine.

The Palestinians have made tremendous strides in mobilizing toward this end since about 1964 when the PLO was organized.

More time will be needed to win the Israeli Jewish workers to this perspective, but the chances have never been better. Dissillusionment among Israeli workers with the Zionist state, as reflected in growing protests against the attacks on their standard of living, is at an historic high.

The Peace Now movement in Israel, which originated to protest the intransigence of the Begin government, has now shifted its attention to protesting the government's support to the right-wing settlement movement in the West Bank. Last October 21, in one of the largest mobilizations in Israeli history (40,000 in Tel Aviv alone), Israelis marched against the government's decision to expand the settlements.

While Peace Now does not consider itself an anti-Zionist movement, its objectives are in conflict with one of the basic dynamics of Zionism—expansionism.

As the bankruptcy of Israel becomes clearer to the Jewish working class, increasing numbers will come to accept the initiation that Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, made to them in his historic speech before the United Nations in 1974: "... I call upon Jews one by one to turn away from the illusory promises made to them by Zionist ideology and Israeli leadership. Those offer Jews perpetual bloodshed, endless war and continuous throttle."

"We offer them the most generous solution that we might live together in a framework of just peace in our democratic Palestine."
Background to revolution
Afghanistan’s 140-year fight against imperialist domination

By Ernest Harsch

The political configurations of Afghanistan’s peoples for social progress and freedom from imperialist domination are inseparably linked.

Throughout Afghan history, every serious attempt to lift the country out of economic and social backwardness, to improve the conditions of its population, to spread literacy and social reform, and to achieve real national independence has met with imperialist opposition and intervention.

That is why our struggle for an independent and sovereign state—ever since Amir Sher Ali was driven from the throne in February 1919. Reflecting the quiescence of the amirs, the British proclaimed their war against Afghanistan as “the only independent Muslim state in the world.”

The war for liberation

By the beginning of the twentieth century, hostility to British dominance and the examples of the Russian revolution of 1905 and the Young Turk movement in Turkey helped foster a new nationalist awakening among Afghan intellectuals, including some members of the royal family. It was known as the Young Afghan movement.

The Russian revolution of 1917 further inspired political ferment. Afghan nationalists hailed the overthrow of the tsar, welcomed the Bolsheviks’ granting of national self-determination to Afghan intellectuals, including some members of the royal family. It was known as the Young Afghan movement.

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The Workers’ and Peasants’ Government that Lenin headed in Russia first recognized Afghanistan as “the only independent Muslim state in the world” with the “great historic task of uniting around itself all enslaved Muslim peoples and leading them on the road to freedom and independence.”

Lenin proposed the establishment of trade and other agreements, “the purpose of which is not only the benefiting of good neighbourly relations in the best interests of both nations, but the joint struggle together with Afghanistan against the most rapacious imperialist government on earth, Great Britain.”

Continued on next page
Continued from preceding page

A treaty was subsequently signed between the two countries. Moscow agreed to provide financial aid and to allow Afghanistan to pass through Russia unscathed.

Khalid agreed not to enter into any military or political accord that might be prejudicial to the Soviet state.

Amanullah did not seek close ties with Moscow out of any revolutionary convictions. For him, it seemed a way of modernizing the country and shortening the country's isolation in its conflicts with British imperialism.

The Bolsheviks, for their part, viewed their relations with Afghanistan—despite the semifeudal character of the Afghan state—as an important breach in the imperialist encirclement of the Russian revolution. They also recognized that Afghanistan's successful war for independence would have a knock-on effect on India. They were worried about Amanullah's ties with anti-colonial Pushtun groups in the North-West Frontier Province. They were alarmed at the spreading influence of the Russian revolution.

While formally recognizing Afghan independence, the British acted to unseat Amanullah from power and to limit his power. This led to the outbreak of Amanullah's reforms as an opening.

The first armed opposition to Amanullah began in 1924, led by religious and tribal leaders who were against the opening of public schools to women and the liberalization of restrictions on women.

The Afghans and Soviet governments accused the British authorities in India of instigating the revolt. Amanullah moved to crush the reactionary rebellion, and was aided in his drive by Soviet pilots.

**British back bandits**

In 1928 a more serious revolt began, led by Bacha Saqao, an archreactionary bandit chief. He was widely believed to have had direct British backing, and articles in the Soviet, German, French, and even British press pointed to a British hand behind the revolt.

In January 1929, Amanullah was forced to abdicate and flee Kabul. Although he attempted for several months to rally continued opposition to Bacha, he gave up in April and went into exile.

Bacha marched into Kabul and proclaimed himself Amir. His regime was promptly recognized by Britain.

Bacha reversed all of Amanullah's reforms. He closed the secular schools, recalled women students who were abroad, and reinstated the laws allowing polygamy.

Laboratories, libraries, and museums were sacked. Supporters of Amanullah and educated Afghans in general were gunned down in the streets, blown apart by cannons, impaled, or starved to death.

Bacha's uselessness to Britain was limited, however. As a bandit leader, he did not have a sufficient social base among the landlords and tribal leaders to set up a stable regime. After he had sufficiently terrorized the urban populace, the British decided to dump him and instead back Nadir Shah, a member of the old royal family.

After only nine months in power, Bacha was swung from the gallows. Nadir Shah seized the throne in October 1929.

The British supplied them all defeat, dispatching to Kabul an interest-free loan of $1 million and crates of arms and ammunition.

Having been brought to power with imperialist backing, Nadir Shah set about enacting the policies of the conservative regime, including the opening of public schools to women and the liberalization of restrictions on women.

**Conservative grip**

Nadir Shah was assassinated in 1930, but his son, Zahir Shah, continued along the same course. For four decades, until 1973, Zahir Shah ruled Afghanistan as a semifeudal monarch.

Despite the predominance of landlord and aristocratic influences, some capitalist development did occur. Private and state banks were set up, government workshops were established, and a minimal amount of industrialization took root.

Between 1962 and 1971, the industrial work force grew from 18,000 to 21,000, out of a total working population of around 4 million. Another 50,000 workers were employed in construction.

Most industry was government owned and only five private companies employed more than 200 workers each. Some of those capitalist interests, moreover, were directly tied to the royal family.

Together with the limited economic growth came a few modernization measures, including an expanded—but still quite small—educational system.

Though independent in name, Afghanistan remained a semicolonial of imperialism. The imperialist role in propelling up the monarchy and the role of the landlord class was a key element blocking the country's social advance.

**Ties with Moscow**

At the same time, because of Afghanistan's proximity to the Soviet Union, the government could not avoid having extensive relations with Moscow.

By this time, the revolutionary Soviet government led by Lenin and Trotsky had been purged by Stalin and replaced by a regime reflecting the interests of a privileged bureaucratic caste. The Revolutionary Internationalist Party of the Soviet government and Communist International under the Bolsheviks gave way to a policy of class collaboration—"peaceful coexistence"—with imperialism.

Since the material benefits of the conservative regime depended on the survival of the Soviet Union, however, the Moscow government continued to value a special relationship with Afghanistan, although now on the basis of "socialism in one country" instead of extension of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism and capitalism.

The ties between the Soviet and Afghan governments became especially significant during the 1950s, while Mohammad Daud, a cousin of Zahir Shah, served as prime minister. At the time, friction between Afghanistan and Pakistan had sharpened over the artificially drawn border that divided the Pushtun people, as the Kabul regime raised the call for the creation of an independent Pushtunist state that would include the North-West Frontier Province.

Washington was a major backer of the Pakistani regime and refused Daud's appeals for greater economic and military aid. So he turned northward.

In 1966, the Afghan regime reached an agreement with Moscow to obtain $25 million worth of Soviet arms. Other agreements followed.

Over the years, thousands of Afghan officers, technicians, and administrators were trained in the Soviet Union. Moscow helped build a modern road system. Trade between the two countries flourished. Between 1954 and 1976, Moscow gave Afghanistan $1.3 billion in aid, the largest per capita amount of Soviet aid to any capitalist country.

Although Afghanistan was still tied to imperialism, these close Soviet relations assured Moscow that the country did not serve as a direct imperialist military bastion on the Soviet Union's southern border, as Iran, Pakistan,
After April 1978 revolution, extensive land reform was begun. Here peasants in Alliger are receiving acres of land.

and Turkey had become through their membership in the American-dominated Central Treaty Organization (CENTO).

Rumblings of discontent

Moscow did not seek to promote opposition to the monarchy, but it developed anyway, rooted in the social conflicts inherent in Afghan society. During the late 1940s and early 1950s a pro-republican urban opposition movement, the Wijk-i Zalmaiyan (Awakened Youth), emerged to challenge the government's policies. A number of its supporters were elected to the showcase parliament.

Noor Mohammad Taraki and Babrak Karmal, who were to become central leaders of the April 1978 revolution, were both members of the Wijk-i Zalmaiyan at the time.

The Amir cracked down in 1952, however, and the movement was suppressed.

A decade later, Zahir Shah authorized the establishment of a new parliament and again allowed elections. A number of oppositionists were elected, including Karmal. In October 1964, several hundred students demonstrated in support of Karmal and other opposition leaders, leading to clashes with the army and several deaths.

In January 1965, the first congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPa) was held in Kabul, electing Taraki secretary-general and Karmal to the Central Committee. It was a pro-Moscow Communist party, its leaders having been educated in the policies and practice of Stalinism.

PDPa gains influence

The party's program called for a "national democratic revolution" and advanced a series of democratic demands, including recognition of the language rights of all nationalities, equality for women, a ban on child labor, and an end to imperialism over the country.

Within just a few years, however, the party split into two public factions, the Khalq (Masses) wing led by Taraki and the Parcham (Flag) led by Karmal.

The formation of the PDPa was symptomatic of a more general discontent that was surfacing, particularly in the cities.

Students demonstrated in opposition to the American intervention in Vietnam.

The Afghan working class began to stir, launching the biggest strike wave in the country's history. Between April and June 1969, there were twenty-one strikes affecting the construction, transport, textile, cement, petroleum, and gold industries. Students demonstrated in support of the strikers.

In May-June 1969, up to 15,000 university and high-school students clashed with riot police.

In 1970, women took to the streets to protest against restrictions on their rights.

The PDPa, despite its Stalinist approach and its internal factional disputes, won growing influence. It was the only organized political force to offer any real opposition to the monarchy. Karmal's Parcham faction in particular carried out clandestine political work within the military.

Discontent was further heightened by a severe famine in the early 1970s, in which up to half a million persons died while landlenders and traders hoarded grain and resisted aid efforts.

The 1973 coup

The social tensions building up within Afghanistan fostered divisions among ruling circles and undermined the monarchy's position.

Seeking to head off a mass upheaval, Mohammad Daud, the Amir's cousin and former prime minister, seized power in July 1973 while Zahir Shah was abroad. He established the monarchy and declared Afghanistan a republic.

Reflecting the pressures he was under, Daud initially adopted a seemingly radical stance. He appointed four members of the PDPa's Parcham wing to the cabinet (pro-Parcham officers had played the central role in carrying out the coup).

Political prisoners were released. All banks were nationalized. A land reform program was drawn up. Daud appeared to favor even closer ties with Moscow.

Although the government was repudiated by the international community, its members of the royal family (like Daud himself) continued to wield considerable influence. The Parcham supporters of the regime were soon removed from positions of authority and political repression was stepped up. Daud moved to establish a one-party state, with all parties outlawed except his own Hisb-i Islami.

The 1979 World Congress of the Fourth International: Documents & Reports

Major documents and reports from the 1979 World Congress of the Fourth International have been collected in a special supplement to the International newspaper 'Intercontinental Press/Inprecor.' This 200-page supplement will be published in a large-size book format.

The World Congress of the Fourth International is the highest body of the Fourth International, an organization of revolutionaries from some fifty countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and North and South America. While the U.S. Socialist Workers Party is barred by reactionary federal legislation from membership in the Fourth International, it is in political solidarity with the international.

Among the documents from the recent World Congress are:

- The world political resolution, plus reports on the international situation by Ernst Mandel and the turn to industry by Jack Barnes.
- Resolutions on Europe and Latin America.
- The first comprehensive resolution on women's liberation in the history of the international Marxist movement.
- Majority and minority viewpoints on Indochina, Nicaragua, and the South African and Chilean social democracies and dictatorship of the proletariat.
- A report on international youth.

As a special offer to new subscribers, 'Intercontinental Press/Inprecor' will send this important supplement of World Congress Documents free with the purchase of a one-year subscription. With a six-month subscription, the book is $2.95. Regular price is $4.95.

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City and mail to Intercontinental Press/Inprecor, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.
Oil strike diary: fight for medical rights

Jana Pellusch is a member of OCAW Local 4-227 in Houston, on strike against Arco. This is the first time she has ever been on strike, which has appeared in the "Militant" since the strike began.

January 23: On the fifteenth day of the strike we hear that 540 oilfield workers in East Texas and along the Texas coast have joined the nationwide strike.

Amoco Production Company declared a lockout. Except for security and non-union employees will be able to keep the field operations at a normal level. Only 430 guards are on duty.

The company used the shooting to create and enhance lines of communication between management and labor.

And in Chicago reports observing trainmasters and other affected parties that the Milwaukee Road railroad is the rail unions, and certain congressmen who are striving to build a strong and democratic union.

defending management in the Milwaukee Road anti-union, pro-company line.

But perhaps most revealing is the source of OCN's new line by explaining, "We can say your answers contained in this issue of OCN [number two] are just exactly those management wanted publicized. . . . Your issue echoed the answers our employees have heard for three years during which time lucrative revenue shipments have been refused, interchanged to other railroads, or discouraged in the delaying or other manners used by a management.

Defending management in the Milwaukee Road bankruptcy has become a favorite theme for OCN.

In an article entitled "GM: Open at Last," OCN conducted an uncritical interview with the vice-presidents of Labor Relations and Corporate Communications on the Milwaukee.

These companies had been given full reign to counter the charges raised by the union movement and other affected parties that the Milwaukee Road has been run to increase profit by the railroad's owners, creditors, and managers.

The same issue of OCN carried an editorial which in the name of "free enterprise" blamed the "middle class" attached everybody who is fighting to stop the Milwaukee's shutdown as an "unholy coalition of SWPers [Socialist Workers Party members], railroad unions, and certain congressmen who are attempting to sell you [the tax burdened middle class] the bankruptcy of the bankrupt line.

Nowhere does OCN mention that the nation's railroad system is a vital social necessity.

Each passing day further proves that this national rail system, of which the Milwaukee is a key part, is being run into the ground by private owners: "free enterprise."
'Cuba' shows impact of the revolution


Cuba is a melodrama that takes place during the last weeks of the Batista regime. Robert Dapes (Sean Connery), a British ex-officer who has been successful in crushing guerrillas in Malaya, is hired by the regime to do the same with the Castroists. He meets again the woman with whom he had an affair fifteen years ago, now married to a man who is heir to one of Cuba's great fortunes.

"How are you going to control these thugs?" asks the British ex-officer, who is remarkably high-minded for a leader of the Malaysian counterinsurgency forces, from whom the American command in Vietnam learned some bloody lessons.

He is referring to a trigger happy revolutionary student who wishes to kill all prisoners. The suggestion evidently is that such "idiots" did actually go berserk and were responsible for the killing of the 500 Batista police officials, which the American press at the time used to launch an anti-Castro propaganda campaign.

But these officials were professional torturers. They were executed only after open trials at the demand of the entire nation.

Nevertheless, a film such as Cuba could not have been released twenty years ago or even ten years ago, when Castro was being pictured in the American mass media as a lunatic delivering raving anti-American harangues. Today the accomplishments of the Cuban revolution are such that blind reaction doesn't have things entirely to itself, and it is possible to have a film that is not wildly distorted.

Who knows? Maybe in twenty years Hollywood will even give us a film that shows the shah as the mass murderer and torturer that he is and the Iranian revolution that overthrew him as a heroic struggle.

—Paul Siegel

Good as Gold: no 'Catch-22'


In Joseph Heller's first and most successful novel, Catch-22, he pilloried the insanity of war and the military machine. Men and women were caught up in an immense bureaucratic disaster designed to whack them off to kill and be killed. "The enemy," the book's hero explains at one point, "is anybody who's trying to get killed.

Catch-22 was released in 1961 and reached its height of popularity during the Vietnam War, when thousands of young people were being disillusioned with the American dream. The lunatic logic of the military bureaucracy in Catch-22 appeared every day in newspaper headlines, as generals announced that in order to save a village it had become necessary to destroy it.

In Heller's latest novel, Good as Gold, his target is the immobility of Washington politics.

But Gold, a New York English professor, is working on a book on the Jewish experience in America. At the same time, he is offered a post in the administration as a token Jew. Good as Gold is the story of his one-year orbit around the fringes of the White House, with the job often always dangling just beyond his reach. It is also Heller's own comment on the Jewish experience in America.

Gold's encounters with presidential aide Ralph Newsome are filled with the sort of dialogue that Heller used to such great effect in Catch-22:

"[The president] probably wants you here as soon as you can make the necessary arrangements, although he probably doesn't want you making any yet. That much is definite."

"Working as what?" asked Gold.

"As anything you want, Bruce. You can have your choice of anything that's open that we're willing to let you have. At the moment, there's nothing."

"I would go for Secretary of State, if I were you," Ralph advised him.

"But I don't know anything," said Gold doubtfully, "and I've got no experience."

"That's never made a difference," said Ralph.

By the end of the book, Gold has come to accept this sort of thing. Even though he eventually turns down the post that was never really offered him, it doesn't apparently bother him that the Ralph Newsomes of the administration are continuing in exactly the same way as before.

One gets the impression that Gold (and Heller) look on politics as a relatively harmless collection of lunatics, all playing in an asylum called Washington.

There is one place, however, in which Heller displays anger. This is in the sections of his book dealing with Henry Kissinger. Gold is collecting material for a critical biography of the former secretary of state, and this material—much of it in the form of newspaper clippings—is scattered throughout the book.

"Kissinger urged sending B-52s against Cambod- dia, supported dictatorships in Chile, Greece, and the Philippines, was dedicated to the perpetuation of racist minority rule in Africa, and contributed to the rebellion of Richard Nixon—Gold had a title he liked. He would call his book The Little Prussian.

Kissinger, Heller seems to feel, is a representative of those Jews who sell themselves to the anti-Semitism. One remembers Nixon's anti-Jewish slurs on the White House tapes.

Gold's family is made up of a domineering, ignorant father, a malicious mother, a collection of sisters, each wrapped in their own emotional problems, and a brother whose favorite pastime is trawling Bruce Gold with his college degree. Their self-abasement is like that of the politicians in the Washington lunatic asylum.

In regarding his characters as harmless grotesques, Heller deprives his satire of bite. It is anger which gives satire its strength and there is little anger in Good as Gold. For this reason it is a novel far inferior to Catch-22, whose key element was the white heat of Heller's rage against the senseless killing of war.

—Peter Archer
In Brief

RIGHTS VICTORY IN AGEE CASE
A victory for civil liberties was won January 29 when a federal jury in Pittsburgh found the Carman Center administration guilty of depriving the rights of Robert S. Agge, a 68-year-old Negro who became involved in unlicensed liquor sales.

The jury voted to award Mr. Agge $25,000 in damages plus interest and costs. The Carman Center, a non-profit religious organization, is subject to the federal Civil Rights AttorneyGeneral's Office. The suit was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union.

A MILITANT WILL BE DRAFTED INTO THE NATION'S ARMED FORCES

A court order was issued January 28 allowing a draft registration to take place. The order was signed by Judge Peter J. Cudahy of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The court ruled that the registration was constitutional and that it would not violate the First Amendment rights of conscientious objectors. The case, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, was awarded to the court.

THE TRUTH ABOUT AFGHANISTAN:
A Strategy for Peace


The book is available in hardcover and paperback. The hardcover edition is $24.95 and the paperback edition is $12.95. The book can be ordered through the United Liberation Front of Afghanistan, P.O. Box 1000, New York, NY 10010.

Militant/Louise Goodman

What's Going On

Retail Clerks face union-busting in Bay Area

By Don Harmon

Grocery store clerks members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, struck against Safeway on January 20, affecting 175 stores in eight Bay Area counties.

On January 23 other major supermarkets—Albertsons, Ralphs, Lucky, and AlphaBeta—locked out their union clerks in retaliation for the selective strike.

To date, only Safeway stores are being picketed, as the union attempts to put the most pressure on the largest supermarket chain. Safeway estimates 40 percent of the 17,000 unionized clerks in the Bay Area.

There are no pickets at the Safeway warehouse.

Terrorized drivers being brought to trucks, to the store parking lots and subc drive them to the docks to be unloaded.

The initial impact of the strike is shown by Safeway giving up 500 Teamster warehouse workers, one third of the total work force, at their Richmond distribution center. Fresh produce from the Richmond warehouse is down 70 percent.

The employers' final proposal, rejected by the membership, 7,001 to 281, included takeaways in fifteen major areas. These include immediate dismissal for each register irregularities, whereas warnings are now required; reduced maternity leave; increased duties of lower-paid non-food clerks; and a sharp attack on seniority, which would take away rights of full-time clerks and encourage the use of part-time clerks.

The Safeway led Food Employers Council is organizing to deal a heavy blow against the union. Scabs are being brought in from the West Coast and the Midwest. It is the same outfit that forced Teamster Warehouse workers out on a 128-day strike in 1978, resulting in a big setback for the union.

A labor support rally is being organized by the Coalition of Labor Union Women and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 428. For more information call (415) 984-0429.

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Miami police officers being tried for the hounding death of Arthur McDuffie, a Black insurance executive, revealed in a deposition that they were part of a group of officers that copse those they view as the beating of civilians as commonplace, in fact, that they use a scale of 1 to 30 to decide if the death is in the "frict. McDuffie, Hanlon said, looked "like a 20. A 30-point injury means death.

McDuffie was savagely clubbed to death on December 17 by the five white cops. Hanlon said he witnessed a fellow officer, Alex Morrero, standing over McDuffie with "his flashlight turned on and he had his grip with both hands—he reared back and struck McDuffie down on top of his head. Hanlon added, "I recall at least three times. It was very, very strong, powerful blows.

McDuffie died of massive head injuries. "They hit him in vengeance" said a witness to the brutal murder. "Everybody in the room was just screaming.

The five cops are pleading not guilty.

Renewed abortion rights fight urged

By Mary Sears

New York—January 22 marked the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that women had the constitutional right to choose abortion.

On January 15 of this year, another landmark decision of the Court, Judge John Dooling of the Federal District Court in Brooklyn ruled that the Congressional cutoff of Medicaid funds for abortions is unconstitutional. If upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, this ruling would strike down the infamous Hyde Amendment.

In the wake of this abortion rights victory, the New York Women's League of the lawyers involved in the Dooling decision; Bill Baird, a long-time activist in the abortion rights movement; Carol Belamy, president of the New York City Council; Erica Jong, poet and author; and others...

"We should want to celebrate this victory, but we should not cover up the crisis that is continuing," said... Others also stressed the need for continued action to defend abortion rights.

Martella Martinez, special counsel to the United Nations Secretary General, pointed out that women seek abortions whether or not they are legal. The difference is whether a woman will have a safe legal abortion or whether she will run a great risk of death from a back-alley or self-induced abortion.

According to Martinez, 40 million abortions are performed worldwide each year, and it is estimated that half of these are performed illegally. She noted that a major cause of death, chronic illness, and sterility among women of child-bearing age in the world is unsafe, illegal abortions.

The anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling was also marked by a convocation and march in Midtown Manhattan sponsored by the Religious Leaders for a Woman's Right to Choose march in the financial district sponsored by the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization.

President Carter's call for reinstating selective service registration—with the possible inclusion of women—has sparked a debate. Should women be drafted? Is this the "right" fight for equality?

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown says he favors registering women along with men. "The question is '[If] it is mostly a matter of equity.'

Equity? This is quite a switch. Here we have a government official that has systematically denied women equal opportunities, access to abortion, and child care, suddenly offering to put us on the front lines of its next war—in the name of equality. Figures in the women's fight move have been quick to oppose the draft for women or men.

A January 25 New York Times interview, Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, stated that NOW is "unilaterally opposed" to drafting women or men.

Janeye Katz, public information manager of the National Women's Political Caucus, told the Times that her organization also was in "total opposition" to the draft.

Ethyl Taylor, national coordinator of Women Strike for Peace and a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, said, "We oppose the draft for all Americans, male or female, and as we did during the Vietnam War, we will be supportive of those who resist on a matter of principle, because it creates bodies for foreign adventures.

Bella Abzug told the New York Daily News that she "proactively oppose the statement of the draft for men, or women, and I regard any move to do so as anti-feminism.

Some people are arguing that women's rights groups and ERA supporters have been "in bed" with the military. On January 31, 1973, the military seized personal property to collect the fines. Seven workers were fined $500 a day each and others $50 a day for remaining in the building after the initial court order.

Since the end of the strike, fifteen workers have been fired and others suspended. The local union is discussing further action.

A scoop—We hope New Yorkers were not unduly astonished on reading a front-page New York Times article which flatly alleged that "in the absence of a shortage of workers, employees angry notified a member of the Communist Party. Action was prompt. The two were fired.

Who me? What?—Former Rep. Daniel Flood, being tried on bribery charges for the second time, is now pleading he's too senile to defend himself. On the stand, he couldn't remember what year it was. But he was clear-headed enough to deny the charges.

One only has to look at the heroic role of women in Vietnam, Iran, and Nicaragua to see this. Women have fought side by side with their brothers to rid their countries of U.S.-supported dictators.

Discussion on, debate around, and actions against the draft are on the increase. Women on the campuses and in the work place can and will play a big role in organizing opposition to the draft and U.S. military intervention.
Our Revolutionary Heritage

Greensboro sit-ins

February 1 marks the twentieth anniversary of the 1960 sit-ins by Black students at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina—the opening moves in the major events that heralded the dawn of the civil rights movement. Two years ago the "Militant" did a special story of "Our Revolutionary Heritage" column about that historic event. With the Federa­tion Against Racial Taunts and the Nazi Terror set for Greensboro, we are reprinting that article from the February 3, 1978, "Militant."

The names of the pioneers were Emmett Till, Richard McDonald, Franklin McLain, and Joseph MacNeil. But you won't find them in many history books.

They were students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, a Black college in Greensboro, and they had formed a Student Executive Committee for Justice.

On Monday, February 1, 1960, they walked into the F.W. Woolworth's store near the campus and sat down at the lunch counter. To get some justice. Refused service at the "whites only" counter, they continued to sit quietly until the lunch counter closed.

The next day more than thirty students sat in. The day after it was forty-five, including a few white student supporters. The sit-ins and the northern support set the stage for the eruption of the 1950s had set the stage for the eruption with an article "from opponents of the Jim Crow system throughout the country."

"At noon in Winston-Salem," Weissman wrote, "a lone Negro sat down at the Kress lunch counter and, when refused service, continued sitting. The item was broadcast on the radio and within a few hours he was joined by scores of students from the Negro Teachers' College in that city. By the end of the next day they had caused the closing of five lunch counters in the downtown area."

Two years ago the "Militant" said basically that your paper is a dupe of right-wing politicians. And during the lunch breaks they joined Philadelphia picket lines.

The sit-ins and the northern support actions marked a significant shift in the mood on campuses—the end of the "silent generation" and the beginning of a new student radicalization. These were the first nationwide protests against segregation, opening a new era in American politics.

And, on July 25, 1960, the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro opened again.

Afghan 'outlaws'

I am proud to be defending the position of the Militant on Afghanistan on the shop floor. Holding my ideals did lead to a very heated argument with an older worker. After the words and curses stopped flying, another younger worker came over to con­vince me on telling him off. I found his comments on the "anti-communist, freedom fighters" quite exact. He called those fighting the Soviet and Afghan government forces—"outlaws."

What else is a counterculturalist if not someone opposed to the laws and actions of a progressive government?

Who makes up this gang of outlaws? Why the former big landlords, the dope dealers, the thieves, the smugglers—the drags of society and the former parricides. Fitting company by historical design.

Who wants to be for that fifth? Not me. Or the guy who works beside me. Buddy.

BRUCE

Info on Afghanistan

My husband and I have political arguments every so often, and after reading your view of the Afghanist position I have to ask. "What on earth was the 19th Militant" he said basically that your paper is a dupe of Moscow. I know well enough that you are anything but that.

In light of the news we just heard about the new arrests against Sakharov, my husband thought we would see comments will be "why didn't they do it earlier?" I know you're against it.

When I read your account of how the three most recent Afghanist articles were authored by Gerry Gaeng and Laila Yardley, Pennsylvania

Opposes Soviet move

I was most upset by the front-page editorial in the January 18 Militant's blatan­t act of military aggression. Afghanistan is as serious a world peace and the progressive development of nations as were the Soviet invasions of Finland in 1939, Poland in 1939, Czechoslovakia in 1968, and the American military intervention in Cuba in 1961, the Afghan revolution. See "Revolution in Afghanistan faces imperialist offensive," July 20, 1979, and "Inprecor," October 19, 1979.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Letters

More on rent control debate

In the November 30 article on rent control debate in the Militant I was shocked to read that the Socialist Workers Party urged voters not to vote on a question of public policy, but at the same time you continue to press for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which doesn't guarantee that there will be equal rights under the law, and also has its share of liberal Democratic politicians supporting that amendment and who give people the idea that if they need it is a vote in a law and the struggle is won.

The Socialist Workers Party, as for the measure to govern "ten­ant-landlord relations" is different from my observa­tions as a native of Balti­more and an organizer there for six years.

Gerry Gaeng and Laila Atallah know more than you newcomers when they say the rent control campaign was "an attemp­ted to force the self-styled "progressive groups" out of the labor movement") and that the "campaign was a signifi­cant, repeated by our

control debate

city's working people of Democratic Party capitalism" [letter in December 21 Militant]. It is, as the very least, as significant a victory as passage of the ERA. In the context of the <!-- Do you think you might be able to explain this article to someone who doesn't understand it? -->
**Learning About Socialism**

**Afghanistan—Russia’s Vietnam?**

When Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan to help fight counterrevolutionary forces, the capitalist media sang a single tune: "It's a new Vietnam!" they chanted. "Russia will now play in a familiar role. We've seen this before in Afghanistan just as we did in the war with the Vietnamese! It will end in a catastrophe for Moscow!"

The refrain became more muted when the overwhelming majority of Afghans put up no resistance to the Soviet presence, and thousands of Afghan troops stood with the invaders against their own people. It is a feature of Washington's propaganda.

It is a cynical attempt to manipulate the opposition that America worked so hard to create in the Vietnamese revolution. Responding to this mood, the U.S. and Soviet governments in Afghanistan. The Soviet forces and their Afghan allies will soon be "bogged down" just as U.S. imperialism was in Vietnam. This assumes that the Afghan people long for the victory of the counterrevolution. Events are showing that they do not.

For all its drawbacks, the basic social measures that the Vietnamese regime put through were more complete and provided welfare to the masses. The Vietnamese masses fought to divide the holdings of the few landlords among the impoverished peasants. They fought for education and medical care for all. They wanted a more equal distribution of vital necessities like food, clothing, and shelter. And the Vietnamese people, not a planned economy that could foster modernization of the economy.

Vietnam was dominated by imperialism—first as a colony by the French and then through the "independent" regime by Washington. Foreign corporations drained the country of much wealth. Imperialism distorted the economy, creating massive unemployment, prostitution, and drug addiction.

Imperialist domination preserved the backward and oppressive institutions that the Vietnamese people rebelled against change. That is why they fought with such fierce determination against the U.S. and French occupiers. In their fight for social and economic progress, the Vietnamese people had no inclination to go it alone. They gladly accepted whatever Soviet military and economic aid they could get. They encouraged the millions of soldiers in North Vietnam, where they built roads, guarded key facilities, and acted as a deterrent to any move by Washington to invade North Vietnam.

Without such outside help, the Vietnamese struggle for liberation would have been even more difficult and costly. In Afghanistan, people began to rise up in April 1979 against the same kind of oppressive conditions that sparked the Vietnamese revolution. Responding to this mood, the government initiated a land reform, began a literacy campaign, and provided welfare to the poor.

For all its drawbacks, the basic social measures that the Vietnamese people longed for were more complete. They don't want to be unemployed. They don't want hunger and begging. They don't want to till land so that some big landlord can get richer. They don't want to be illiterate. They don't want Women to be bought and sold like cattle.

And so they don't like the program of the counterrevolution and its bankers in Washington, which aims to push them back into the dark ages. They don't want to go back to the way the Vietnamese. They want to put a stop to arms aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and to the Pakistani government that supports them.

Far from being a "Russian Vietnam," the dispatching of Soviet troops to Afghanistan placed a new obstacle in the way of Washington's drive to prepare new Vietnamese in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. —Fred Feldman

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**If You Like This Paper, Look Up**

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets.

- **Awareness**
  - Chicago: SWP, YSA, 1116 W. Wabansia Av. 4th Floor. Zip: 60612. Tel: (312) 636-4631.
  - An Arbor, Michigan: SWP, YSA, Room 419, 6th Floor, 460 W. Liberty St. Zip: 48103. Tel: (313) 769-3522.
  - Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Evergreen Dr. Zip: 97210. Tel: (503) 229-7245.

- **Alliance**
  - Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 1734 Marlin St. NE. Zip: 20002. Tel: (202) 223-2128.

- **Alliance**
  - Milwaukee, Wisconsin: SWP, YSA, 504 E. Wisconsin Ave., Zip: 53202. Tel: (414) 278-5285.
  - Minneapolis: SWP, YSA, Room 419, 6th Floor, 460 W. Liberty St. Zip: 48103. Tel: (313) 769-3522.

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Earthquake cracks deadly nuclear lab
Calif. officials cover up danger from radioactive leak

By Louise Goodman

SAN FRANCISCO—A second Three Mile Island reaction has been going on nearly everybody's mind as a powerful earthquake shook northern California, causing a leak of radioactive water at the Livermore nuclear weapons facility east of San Francisco January 24.

The quake forced the evacuation of the 7,100 employees of the nuclear facility. And just two days later another major earthquake shook the Bay Area.

Officials are going out of their way to play down the seriousness of the danger, just as they did during Three Mile Island.

Livermore laboratory officials stepped into quickly to try to minimize the hazard caused by the leak of 50 gallons from a crack in a 30,000-gallon Livermore tank holding a mixture of water and radioactive tritium.

To begin with, laboratory officials covered up for a day the fact that any leak had taken place.

Then they held a news conference to insist there was no danger. With TV cameras focusing on an innocent-looking puddle, a lab spokesperson asserted the radioactive water was safe enough to drink. The official didn't volunteer to sample the water.

Tritium is a hydrogen isotope used in the research of nuclear energy through fusion. It emits beta radiation. Even the lowest levels of radiation from such isotopes, especially if taken into the body, can do serious cell damage and cause cancer, mutations, and birth defects. Tritium poses the special threat of replacing hydrogen in the genetic material of cells.

By Joette Baity

TORRANCE, Calif.—At Mobil Oil's Torrance refinery, the scales are living inside. From the street you can see their trailers and campers. Some are supposed to be living right in the company office building in the plant. The police are playing their usual role. At the front gate they force picketers to stop for traffic signals. They hand out tickets for things like a burned-out tail light when a striker drives away from the plant.

The cops are enforcing an injunction that limits the number of picketers at the front gate to nine, but they do not specify a distance between pickets. One striker told me that electricians, boilermakers, and Teamsters are honoring the picket line.

At the Vernon refinery, Teamster drivers bring the trucks up to the picket line. Management scabs then take over driving into the plant, leaving and driving back out.

Strikers at Torrance say rail workers are doing the same kind of thing.

Mobil has been using helicopters and rented trucks to bring in the scabs. Several strikers I spoke with were concerned about accidents. One told me that a tank had overflowed and flooded a protective back-up container.

He also said the scales are operating a receiving dock that was damaged in an accident in September. When the strikers left the plant January 8, there was a six-foot crack in that tank.

Another striker said he is glad he lives twenty miles away. "If there's any problem at all, there's going to be an explosion," he said.

New Orleans

By Greg Nelson

NEW ORLEANS—Oil workers here are conducting their strike in a difficult situation.

On January 18 at 7:30 a.m. a foreman was shot to death at the Petroleum refinery in Chalmette, a town adjacent to New Orleans. The foreman was shot as he directed scab traffic into the struck facility.

The shooting created a tremendous uproar of antimonopoly, anti-strike propaganda from the local media and put OCAW Local 4-522 on the defensive.

According to reports, Aubrey "Ed" Massey, a twelve-year local member,...