

## Lift Reagan's ban on travel to Cuba!

The decision of the Reagan administration to reimpose a ban on travel to Cuba is an ominous step toward war in Central America and the Caribbean. It must be vigorously denounced by all those who support democratic rights and oppose another Vietnam.

Announced April 19, the travel ban goes into effect May 15.

It comes at a time of sharpened military hostilities toward Cuba, including

### EDITORIAL

the opening of provocative U.S. naval and air maneuvers in the Caribbean involving some 39 warships and 200 planes.

It occurs as Washington is tightening its noose of military encirclement around Nicaragua; and as Reagan is stepping up his attacks on the Black Caribbean island of Grenada.

These moves are highly dangerous, but they are also a product of weakness. They occur in the context of the U.S. rulers' inability to block fresh advances by the guerrilla forces in El Salvador and Guatemala, despite the charade of elec-

Continued on Page 18



Militant/Lou Howort

## Questions & answers on Malvinas Islands

BY LARRY SEIGLE

Working people are being bombarded with "news" and "analysis" of the conflict between Argentina and Britain. Every night on TV and in the morning papers we are told that Argentina is the "aggressor." That Britain — which "used to have an empire" — is today fighting for the lofty principle of self-determination. And that Washington, with no stakes of its own in the matter, is the "peacemaker."

We are told that morality and fairness are on the side of Britain. After all, it is a "democratic" country like our own, and therefore far superior to the military dictatorship in Argentina. What's more, English is spoken in Britain, so it naturally holds values closer to those on which the United States rests.

Most important, they tell us, what is involved in this conflict is whether the rule of law will prevail in world affairs over the use of military aggression.

The London *Economist*, one of Britain's most authoritative magazines, summed up the "principle" at stake:

"If a democracy is not armed enough or self-confident enough to resist even such small-scale thuggery then democrats must expect thugs to rule."

But is this really a contest between "democrats" and "thugs"? And where, amidst all the contradictory arguments, do the interests of the working people — in Argentina, in Britain, and in the United States — really lie?

In an effort to provide a clearer picture of what is at stake, here are some questions and answers on the Argentina-Britain conflict.

**Question. In a nutshell, please. What side is the Militant on?**

**Answer.** The Malvinas Islands, called the Falkland Islands by Britain,

are an inalienable part of Argentina. Most nations of the world recognize Argentine sovereignty over the islands. Britain has held the islands as a colony since it seized them by force 150 years ago. London should give up its claim to its colony and stay out.

But much more is now involved than the islands alone. There is a military, economic, and diplomatic confrontation between one of the world's mightiest imperialist powers and a country oppressed by imperialism. In this conflict,

we side unequivocally with the country that is the victim of imperialism.

We demand that Britain turn its fleet around, lift its economic embargo, and recognize Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas.

**Q. Your position is clear enough. But I'm not convinced. Isn't there a real dispute over the sovereignty?**

**A.** A glance at the map will tell you that, geographically, the Malvinas are

Continued on Page 4

## Israeli bombers terrorize Lebanon

BY WILLIAM GOTTLIEB

"A barbaric aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people." This was how Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), described the April 21 Israeli bombing raids of villages just south of Beirut.

At least 23 people were killed as waves of Israeli bombers flew over the villages. Scores were injured.

Israel's military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, said the murderous raid was "to warn that we are not going to be restrained."

For weeks the Israeli government has threatened war against the Palestinian population in southern Lebanon. And it has sought to provoke the Palestinians and the Syrian government to justify opening up a war.

The day before the Lebanon raids, an Israeli plane flew over the Golan Heights, Syrian territory recently annexed by Israel. When the Syrians fired missiles at the plane, the Israelis charged it was an act of aggression against them.

Another pretext the Israelis used was the death of an Israeli soldier whose jeep hit a land mine in southern Lebanon.

In an even more provocative move, Israeli jets shot down two Syrian planes during the April 21 raid in Lebanon.

Each of these moves underscores how determined the Israeli government is to find a pretext to start a war. It wants to move in on the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and crush the PLO-led resistance. It has already launched a war inside Israel against Palestinians living there, gunning down youths at recent protest demonstrations.

The upsurge of Palestinians inside Israel — symbolized by a general strike March 30 — has also sparked deep opposition among the Jewish population. A demonstration of 40,000 to 50,000, mostly Jews, angrily protested the government's attacks on Arabs March 27.

The U.S. government has posed as a negotiator for "peace" in the midst of the Israeli war threats and provocations. But Washington is "neutral" on the side of Israel, and the raid into Lebanon con-

Continued on Page 3

## Blacks march for voting rights

BY MELISSA MORIARTY

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—As 3,000 supporters cheered, marchers left here April 19 to begin a five-state walk to Washington, D.C., demanding extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

"We're here because there's an undeclared war on Black people in this country," Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH, told a sendoff rally at Tuskegee Institute High School.

"We're here because the Voting Rights Act has been sabotaged and reduced to an Indian treaty. We're here because life is being threatened by the warmongers. We're here sending a message to Washington that we won't fight for 'voting rights' in El Salvador while two Black women are on the chain gang in Alabama for registering Blacks to vote."

Jackson was referring to Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder, who were jailed last January on frame-up charges of vote fraud. The two are now serving sentences of four years and five years, respectively, on work release in Tuskegee.

The sendoff rally launched a new stage in the fight for extension of the Voting Rights Act.

The Reagan administration has announced plans to gut the measure by forcing Blacks and other minorities to prove that the intent of any voting violation is to discriminate. Since it is unlikely that violators would admit to their racist intentions, the act would become void of content.

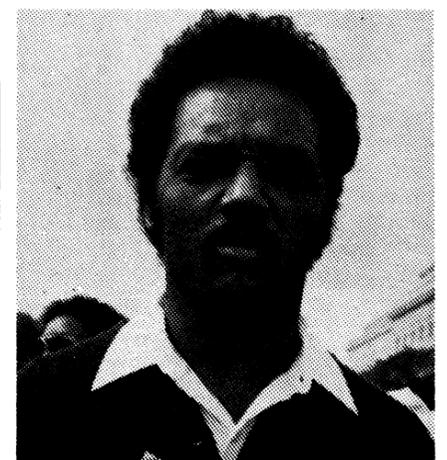
The attack on the Voting Rights Act comes at a time when many workers and farmers — especially Blacks — are looking for alternatives to the Democratic and Republican parties.

The voting rights march will pass through Alabama, Georgia, South and North Carolina, and Virginia — arriving at the White House in early July.

Rallies are planned along the way, where others will join the march. Among those are expected to be Coretta Scott King, Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, and United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser.

For the April 19 rally, Tuskegee Institute High School was jammed with Black students, civil rights activists, and a contingent from the UAW. Signs and banners declared: "Reaganomics:

Continued on Page 2



Militant/Lou Howort

Rev. Jesse Jackson

# Blacks, unionists march for voting rights

Continued from Page 1

Black genocide"; UAW says extend the Voting Rights Act"; and "War is not healthy, it's deadly."

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, welcomed the UAW's support and introduced union officials from Detroit and Region 8 in Alabama.

"Black folks are not responsible for America's troubles," Lowery told the crowd. "We don't control the banks. We don't control the insurance companies. We don't control Wall Street — we don't even know where it is."

High school students had the day off, as did students at Tuskegee Institute College. Many turned out for the rally to "see history in the making." Said one, "We're here because Reagan plans to turn students into soldiers."

The rally reflected the wide concerns of the audience. As Representative John Conyers of the Congressional Black Caucus put it, "All the senators and congressmen are worried about what we're doing here today, because the holdup of the Voting Rights Act is just one small crime surrounded by a hundred other injustices."

Conyers went on to ask, "Who is going to stop the peril of nuclear war that hangs over our heads?"

"We are world citizens. We have to save not only Alabama, not only the U.S., but the world." Conyers then explained how the budget cuts in social services are going right to the Pentagon.

Added Billie J. Young, from the Southern Rural Women's Cooperative: "You'll be out of school by the time the march gets to Washington in July. You won't have no job, nohow. So you might as well be there."

As the 150 marchers left Tuskegee in the pouring rain, the crowd roared: "I am somebody! I demand the right to vote! I demand justice!"

For more information on the march contact Southern Christian Leadership Conference, P.O. Box 39128, Atlanta, Georgia 30312. Telephone: (404) 522-1420.

BY KATE DAHER

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Marches, pickets, and public forums are being organized throughout the South in support of the Alabama-to-Washington march for the Voting Rights Act.

Here in North Carolina, on April 8, the National Alliance of Concerned Black Citizens of Stokes County held a spirited 12-mile march to the county seat in Danbury.

And the Greensboro chapter of the Black United Front is planning a massive petitioning effort to demand that

Congress extend the Voting Rights Act.

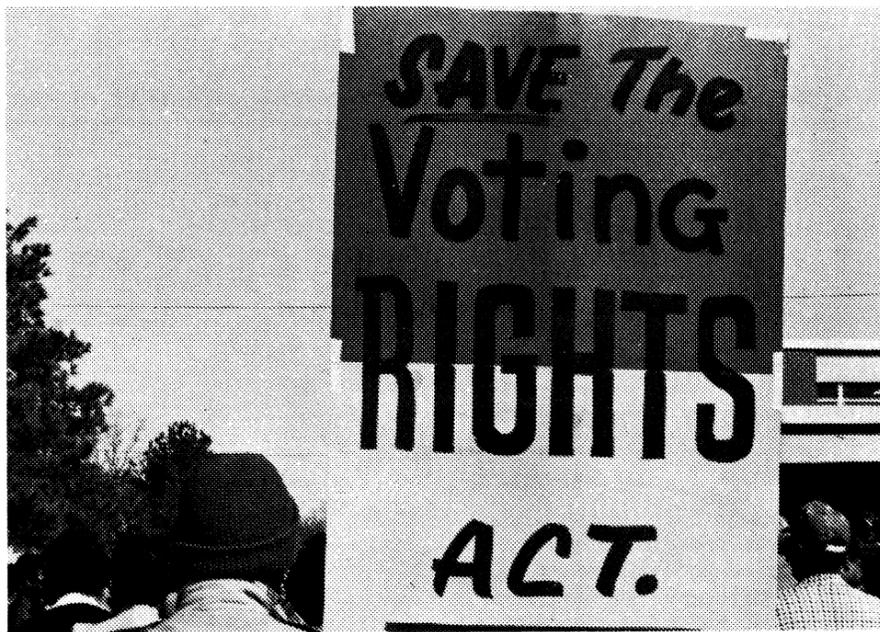
But even while the act itself is in effect, voting rights abuses continue here, as do attempts by authorities to intimidate supporters of the measure.

- A recent picket line in Greensboro, sponsored by the Black United Front, was systematically photographed by police.

- In Guilford County, state officials forced students at predominantly Black A&T University to fill out a 13-point questionnaire before being allowed to register to vote.

Students at the nearby Greensboro campus of the University of North Carolina, most of whom are white, had only to answer a five-point questionnaire.

The state's actions are currently being challenged by the NAACP, which along with the AFL-CIO and the National Black Independent Political Party, is one of many national organizations supporting extension of the Voting Rights Act.



Militant/Willa Madden

## Railroad workers shut down Burlington line

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Nebr. — The Burlington Northern Railroad's bosses were caught by surprise the morning of April 13 when 12,000 members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) went on strike.

The UTU called the national one-day shutdown over BN's attacks on local work rules and the company's unwillingness to negotiate a contract.

The BN operates in 25 states and two Canadian provinces, and has almost 30,000 miles of track.

Here in Lincoln, UTU Local 305 shut down almost all operations, including the large steel gangs of the maintenance of way track department.

Local 305's 650 members have been looking for a long time for a way to fight back against BN's harassment over the last four years. BN has not lived up to the many agreements it has signed with the UTU in the past.

What made the shutdown so successful in Lincoln was the Local 305 strike committee, which contacted members of the Lincoln Coalition of Rail Crafts on the morning of the strike. These rail workers helped the strike committee organize picketing.

The coalition includes 12 rail crafts in the Lincoln area. It was formed over a year ago for better communication among rail workers about problems in dealing with the BN. This strike was a good example of how that communication works.

The UTU has not had a wage increase in almost two years. The old contract expired in April 1981; non-operating crafts settled their contracts last fall.

Many UTUers feel the UTU officials would have settled long ago except for the many work-rule concessions BN is seeking.

A federal judge issued an order halting the strike for 10 days. At 6 p.m., we were told, the strike was over. It had lasted 12 hours.

UTU members in Kansas City — who

thought they should stay out until they got what they wanted — did not pull down their pickets until 9 p.m.

Many rail workers drew lessons from the air traffic controllers' strike about the need to fight back and stick together in a strike. They feel that if the union officials would get behind them, they could win.

The April 13 BN strike could be the beginning of a national response of more such actions, and on other lines such as the Sante Fe. The members of Local 305 are ready to strike again.

## Carolina rally against bomb plant

BY KATE DAHER

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — The Natural Guard, an umbrella group made up of 14 organizations dedicated to nuclear disarmament, has called for a May 30 rally to be held at the Savannah River Plant near Aiken, South Carolina.

Production at the plutonium producing "bomb plant" is being increased to provide another 14,000 nuclear warheads, as well as neutron bombs, in the next eight years.

In a leaflet publicizing the rally, the Natural Guard declares that "The Reagan Administration is plummeting the United States into a nuclear arms race from which there is no return."

The action has the potential to reach

thousands of antiwar activists, students, Blacks, farmers, and mill workers throughout the South.

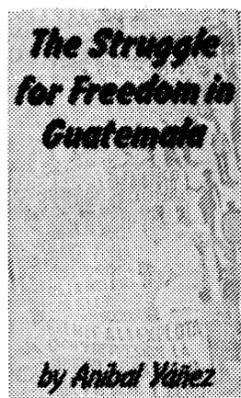
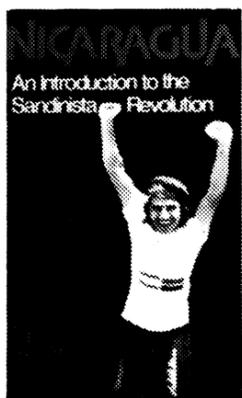
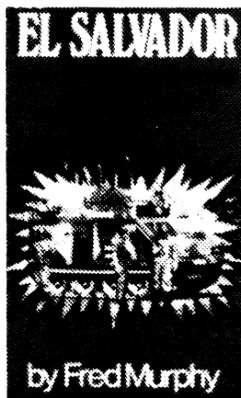
Organizing for the rally is taking place in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, and Washington, D.C.

The rally, which will feature a speaker from the European disarmament movement, has been endorsed by SANE, Mobilization for Survival, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, South Carolina Catholic Diocese Bishop Unterkoefer, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and others.

For more information contact: Natural Guard, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 20201 — (803) 254-9398.

Special offer to new readers:

## Free pamphlet with an introductory subscription to the 'Militant'



The *Militant* has featured ongoing coverage of the Reagan administration's threat to wage war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Now, in addition to this coverage, an introductory subscription to the *Militant* will get you one of these pamphlets. They

trace the history of the freedom struggle in three countries that are threatened by intervention from Washington, and provide useful background to the current danger.

Simply enclose \$3 for twelve weeks of the *Militant* and check off the pamphlet

you want us to send you. Mail to: The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Enclosed is:

- \$3 for 12 weeks (new readers only). Send me  **Nicaragua**: An introduction to the Sandinista revolution
- The Struggle for Freedom in Guatemala**  **El Salvador**: Why the U.S. government hides the truth.
- \$15 for six months
- \$24 for one year
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to the *Militant*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Union/Org. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Militant

Closing news date: April 21, 1982

Editors: CINDY JAQUITH  
 DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:  
 NANCY ROSENSTOCK

Editorial Staff: Connie Allen, Steve Bride, Nelson González, William Gottlieb, Suzanne Haig, Margaret Jayko, George Johnson, Frank Lovell, Harry Ring, Larry Seigle, Stu Singer.

Published weekly except two weeks in August, the last week of December, and the first week of January by the *Militant* (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to **The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.**

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for airmail rates to all other countries.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Wide support for June 12 disarmament rally

News conference features civil rights, labor, religious groups

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Plans for a giant anti-war march and rally here June 12 were formally announced at a press conference April 19. A broad array of sponsoring organizations participated in the announcement.

The June 12 action coincides with the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament. Demonstrators are expected to come to New York from 500 cities and towns across the United States.

International delegations will also participate. These include an elected delegation of 1,300 Japanese. As June 12 rally organizers explained, the Japanese "will tell us what an atomic bomb can do, and why it must never happen again."

Buses are being organized from cities in Canada as well.

The press conference was organized by the June 12 Rally Committee. Participants included representatives of the International Association of Machinists; Hospital Workers; and District 65 of the United Auto Workers (UAW).

United Farm Workers President César Chávez came to pledge the support of his union. "We can do what we did against the Vietnam War," he said. "People will come out and this will force a change in government policy."

Also declaring support were Episcopalian Bishop Paul Moore, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, and Rev. William Sloane Coffin of New York's Riverside Church, among others.

Actor Harry Belafonte spoke on behalf of a large committee of artists and writers who have mapped out extensive building activities in support of the action.

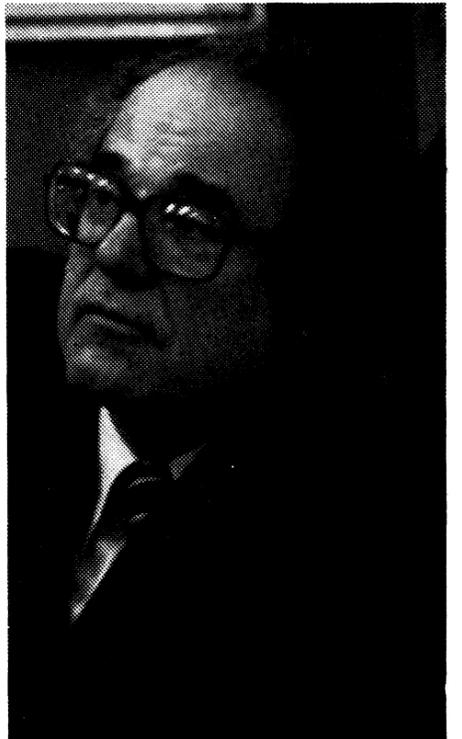
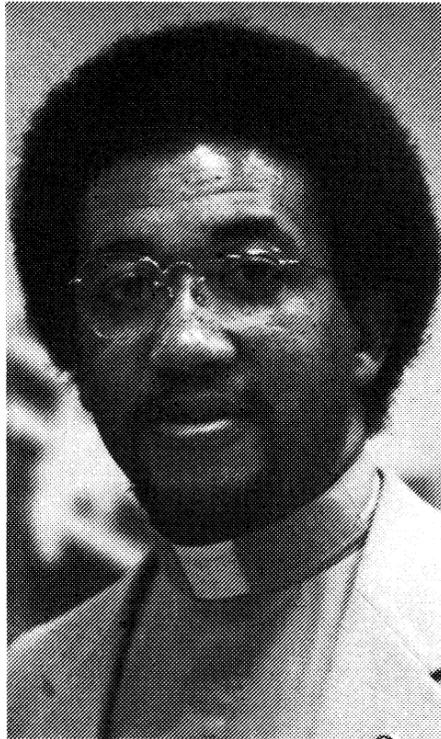
Jack O'Dell represented Rev. Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH and pledged that organization's support to "this timely action."

Rev. Ben Chavis, who gained national prominence as one of the Wilmington Ten defendants, spoke on behalf of the United Church of Christ. He said the church had made the fight for peace "a number one priority" and that it is urging all of its members "to strive to get to New York City June 12."

"We must disarm the nuclear maniacs and it must take place here" in the United States, he said.

Dick Greenwood of the Machinists union said, "I can assure you that the Machinists will be with you on June 12." He added that union personnel are being assigned to organize membership participation in the demonstration.

Salvador Tio announced the forma-



Participants in April 19 news conference, left to right: Rev. Ben Chavis, César Chávez, Rev. William Sloane Coffin.

tion of the Hispanic Emergency Committee to support June 12. Spanish-speaking people, he said, have a special interest in protesting allocation of social funding to the military. The committee has been formed, he explained, to assure maximum Hispanic participation in the demonstration.

Tio is also active in opposing the role of the U.S. military at the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

A statement from Coretta Scott King pledged the support of the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Cleveland Robinson, a leader of District 65 of the UAW, reported that the recent District 65 convention had voted unanimously to support June 12 and that the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists was supporting it as well.

Other affiliates of the June 12 Rally Committee include the American Friends Service Committee; Clergy and Laity Concerned; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; U.S. Peace Council; and Women's International League for

Peace and Freedom.

The press conference was chaired by Moe Foner, executive secretary of District 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees. It was held at the union's headquarters.

Rev. Paul Mayer announced that discussions are proceeding between the June 12 Rally Committee and other important forces building the demonstration, including the Afro-American Executive Committee and the Third World and Progressive People's Coalition, with the goal of achieving the broadest, most united action June 12.

## U.S. holds war maneuvers in Caribbean

Washington is again demonstrating its willingness to use military force against the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean through massive military maneuvers in the area.

The U.S. Navy has scheduled two sets of exercises for April and May. According to Rear Admiral Robert McKenzie, who will command the operations from the newly expanded U.S. base in Key West, Florida, "Cuba will perceive very clearly that we have a great capacity to

project military power in this region."

The first set of maneuvers, entitled "Readex 2-82," began April 6. It involves 39 ships, including 2 battle-groups headed by aircraft carriers, and 200 planes. British vessels are participating as well in these exercises, which are to last five weeks.

Still larger maneuvers, entitled "Ocean Venture 82," will take place from the end of April to mid-May. These will involve all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

According to the April 7 *Miami Herald*, the latter maneuvers "will include a variety of military drills designed along 'real world' situations. U.S. forces will attempt to stop a mock country called 'Brown' from shipping arms to Central America, and the Marines will simulate an invasion along the beaches of Puerto Rico."

A more extensive report carried in the *Herald's* Spanish-language edition continued:

"The naval forces will be deployed both in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as at the U.S. bases of Guantánamo Bay [Cuba], Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, according to Navy officials.

"Navy and Air Force planes, flying from bases in Florida and Georgia, will simulate operations against another air force operating from carriers in the Gulf of Mexico. . . .

"Practice in irregular warfare between Green Berets and small commando units will be held at various military installations in Florida and Georgia, the Navy said."

## Vietnam festival slated for New York May 7

BY SANDI SHERMAN

NEW YORK — A festival will be held in New York City on May 7 to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the victory of the Vietnamese people over U.S. imperialism. It will be held at 777 UN Plaza from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Association of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S., Clergy and Laity Concerned, the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos (CSVNKL), and the Southeast

Asia Resource Center, the festival has received broad endorsement.

A partial list of cosponsors includes the War Resisters League, People's Anti-War Mobilization, U.S. Peace Council, Socialist Workers Party, Youth Against War and Fascism, Harlem Fight Back, and the Young Socialist Alliance.

In a letter announcing the event, the CSVNKL said, "The Viet Nam Syndrome, the refusal of the people of the

U.S. to permit the government to send troops abroad to intervene in people's struggles, still stands as a tribute to the historic victory of the Vietnamese.

"But the Vietnamese paid a heavy price for that victory.

"More than a million killed. Many more millions wounded or victims of diseases brought on by Agent Orange and other poisons. More than 15 million left homeless. . . .

"The Vietnamese are still paying a heavy price for their victory. The U.S., with the cooperation of the leaders of China, is waging a 2nd war against Viet Nam. It is trying to starve Viet Nam into submission — and admits it publicly."

The May 7 program will include discussion of the ongoing U.S. imperialist campaign against Vietnam. A film entitled *Ecocide — A Strategy of War* will be shown. It documents U.S. use of poison chemicals against Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos during the war.

Members of the Vietnamese and Laotian missions to the UN will speak, along with Chan Bun Han, a Kampuchean; a spokesperson for El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front; Morton Sobell; and Don Luce.

## Israeli bombers terrorize Lebanon

Continued from Page 1

firmed this.

Rather than denouncing the murder of Palestinians and Lebanese by U.S.-supplied warplanes, a White House statement on the April 21 raid urged the PLO to exercise "restraint"! This echoes the Zionists' lie that Palestinian "terrorists" — that is, any Palestinians who demand their rights — are a threat to Israel, and their existence justifies continuous acts of war and grabbing of territory by the Menachem Begin regime.

It's like giving a thief a gun, letting

him rob someone, and then demanding the victim be restrained.

The White House said it wanted both sides "to avoid actions which could prolong or escalate the violence."

But the greatest promoter of violence in the Middle East is the U.S. government itself, which has armed Israel to the teeth so it can police the region against the Arab revolution.

Washington's policies are no more in the interests of U.S. workers than they are in the interests of the workers in Israel, both Arab and Jewish.

### From Pathfinder **Nicaragua:** An introduction to the Sandinista Revolution

By Arnold Weissberg. Managua correspondent for *Intercontinental Press*.

A clearly written description of pre-revolutionary Nicaragua, the insurrection, the far-reaching social measures taken by the Sandinista government and the U.S. government's response.

48 pp., \$ .95. Add \$ .75 for postage. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

# Questions & answers on Malvinas Islands

Continued from Page 1

part of Argentina. Historically, the story is the same. In the 1700s Britain, Spain, and France all made claims on the islands.

The Spaniards bought out the French and drove out the British. Spain governed the islands, as it did Buenos Aires and most of Latin America. When Argentina declared its independence from Spain in 1816, it claimed sovereignty over all of its territory and took control of the islands.

In 1833, however, a British warship took the islands by force. The British rulers have ignored Argentina's protests for a century and a half.

**Q. Yes, but whatever the historical merits, how can you side with the aggressors?**

A. I guess the last answer wasn't clear enough. The British seized the Malvinas by force 150 years ago. They have held it by force since. They are the aggressors.

According to the imperialists' moral code, if they steal someone's land and hold on to it long enough, it becomes theirs. Whenever oppressed peoples anywhere in the world fight to regain control over their own territory, they are called the "aggressors."

What's more, Britain refused every Argentine effort to negotiate in good faith. In 1965 Argentina finally got a resolution passed in the United Nations calling on the British to negotiate. But Britain stalled the discussions. As recently as this past February, Argentina's diplomats at the UN pressed for a speedup in the drawn-out talks. The British refused.

**Q. But what about the residents of the Malvinas Islands? Margaret Thatcher says Britain has no interests in the islands and is fighting solely for the right of the islanders to self-determination. Of course, I don't really believe her, but isn't the issue itself important?**

A. The real issue of self-determination is Argentina's right to exercise sovereignty over its own territory.

The English-speaking islanders are not oppressed by Argentina. Many people of British origin or descent live in Argentina. They do not face racial or national discrimination.

The islanders do have interests in this conflict, however. Their most immediate concern is to avoid having the British fleet attack the islands and destroy their homes.

Jim Burgess, a carpenter on the Malvinas, put it this way, "There will be a blood bath here if the navy tries to recapture the islands. If they try to take Stanley, they will destroy Stanley. Everything is made of wood here. Half a dozen fires and a good wind and the town will be gone for ever."

One passenger on a flight out of the Malvinas told a *New York Times* reporter that the islanders had told him to deliver a message to Thatcher: "For God's sake, cool it."

In fact, the islanders themselves are victims of British capitalism in more ways than one. The land they live on and the sheep they tend are owned by British absentee landlords. A single company, the Falkland Islands Company (FIC), owns 46 percent of the land, most of the sheep, the warehouses, and the ships that transport the wool to Britain.

What the capitalist papers portray as the "picturesque" life of the Malvinas islanders is merely a cover for low living standards and the absence of social services.

"The FIC has never reinvested a cent in the Falklands," said one legislative councilor from the capital city of the Malvinas. "They have continually put the squeeze on us to make more money for their shareholders in the UK."

What's more, under Britain's new racist immigration law, aimed primarily at keeping out nonwhite immigrants from countries in the British Commonwealth, the children of the islanders will

no longer even have the right to move to Britain.

The islanders are victims of British imperialism. They will benefit, above all, from a worldwide movement that can force the British fleet to turn back.

**Q. OK, I agree that it's absurd that the British imperialists would be fighting anywhere for anybody's self-determination. Look at their occupation of Northern Ireland! But, then, what are they fighting for?**

A. Like John Reed said: profits.

**Q. Can't you be more specific?**

A. Sure. Oil, for one. Some estimates have said the oil in the waters around the Malvinas could rival the rich North Sea deposits. According to the *Christian Science Monitor* of April 6, "Bernardo F. Grossling, an international petroleum expert formerly with the US Geological Survey and currently with the Inter-American Development Bank, says that 'many people from the petroleum industry consider the area off Argentina one of the most promising in the world, and I agree with them.'"

Exxon and Arco are engaged in exploratory work off the Argentine coast. One successful test well yielded 5,000 barrels a day. Last December, when Argentina advertised for oil prospectors in waters off the Malvinas, the British government kicked up quite a fuss about whose oil it was.

Of course, the exact reserves are unknown. And British and U.S. government officials are downplaying the amount as part of their pretext of displaying only humanitarian motives. But some U.S. oil companies have already begun negotiating a drilling pact with Argentina.

Sovereignty over the islands also bears directly on ownership of the seabed, the Antarctic, and the vast potential wealth there.

Of course, profits are at stake in a broader sense as well. What concerns London — and Washington — is that the masses of the colonial and semicolonial world are getting the idea that now is a good time to take back what belongs to them. They see the weakness of imperialism, especially since Washington was defeated in Vietnam. That is what Reagan is running up against in Central America today.

As the *Economist* of London put it in an editorial headlined, "By jingo, if we can":

"To shrink will be to shrink: to show that today democracies really are less able to defend their interests — even the tiny ones, never mind the bigger ones that matter more — than are authoritarian regimes. And thereby to encourage bigger losses in future than the Falklands today. That is the issue."

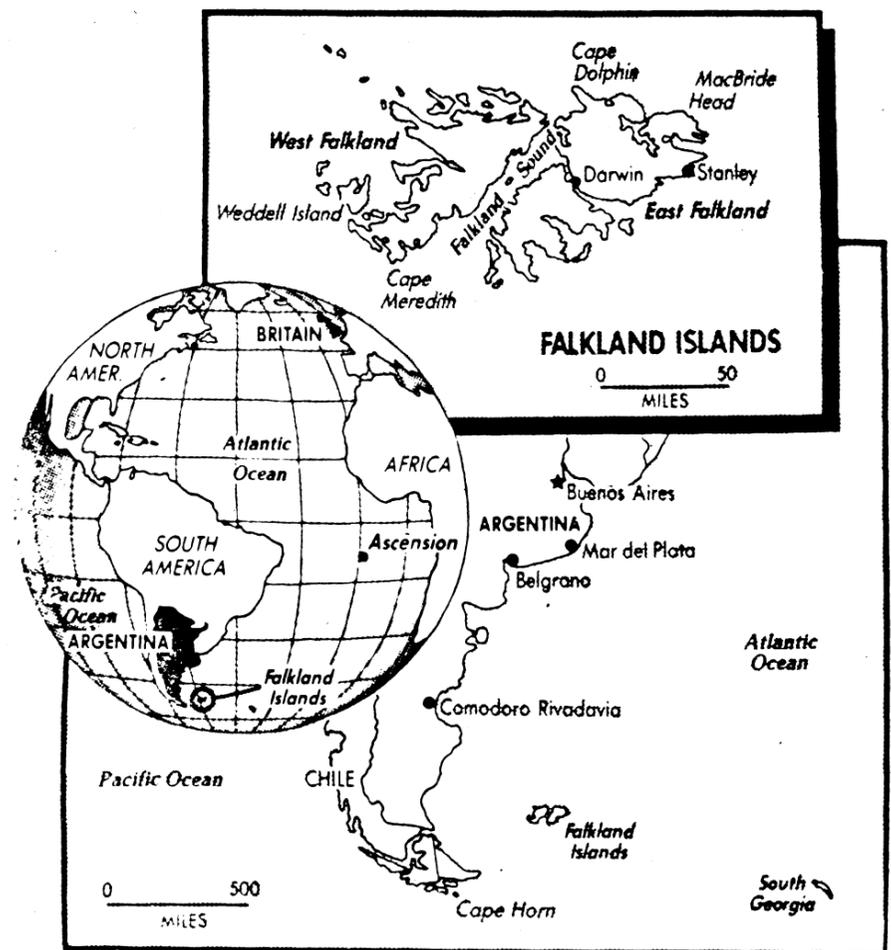
And the *New York Times*, representing the interests of the ruling class of this country, agreed. "If the British Navy is capable of lowering the Argentine flag over the islands, at least temporarily, that fact needs to register in Buenos Aires." After all, the *Times* editors say, "Let's face it, there are worse things than this matter coming to blows."

**Q. So is that why Washington is "tilting" toward Britain?**

A. Washington isn't "tilting" toward anyone. It is pursuing its own imperialist interests, just as it always does. It has common interests with Britain in making sure that the masses of Argentina, and the rest of Latin America, don't get the idea that they can kick out the imperialist powers.

**Q. Okay, I see what London and Washington are up to. But your position still makes me uncomfortable. How can workers support the blood-soaked military dictatorship in Buenos Aires? Aren't they the immediate enemy?**

A. It is not a question of supporting the military dictatorship. To support Argentina against Britain does not



By Dave Cook - The Washington Post

mean to serve the military regime. It means supporting the fight against imperialism despite the military regime. By supporting the struggle against British imperialism, the Argentine workers are not giving political support to the regime, which they justifiably detest. Their goal is to bring down the generals, and they correctly see a defeat for Britain as a step toward that objective.

Class-conscious Argentine workers are the most resolute in the fight against the British. But they don't count on the military government to lead an uncompromising struggle. Just the opposite.

The last thing the generals want is to mobilize the working people in the kind of struggle it will take to defeat Britain. In fact, the government's occupation of the Malvinas was timed to curb the mass struggle and protect its own increasingly shaky rule.

But the regime's motives and intentions are not at issue. A conflict is under way between imperialism and a country oppressed by imperialism. In this conflict the workers have a decisive interest.

The struggle of the Argentine toilers for a workers and farmers government is not separate from the struggle against imperialism. It is part of it. The Argentine workers and peasants, in order to bring to power a government that defends their interests, have to fight to free their country from imperialist domination. A victory for Britain would increase the subjugation of Argentina to exploitation and oppression by foreign capital. The workers and farmers will suffer.

On the other hand, if Britain fails in its efforts to bring Argentina to its knees, working people there will be in a better position to carry forward the fight against the military dictatorship and imperialism.

**Q. One final question. Is what you are telling me the traditional Marxist view, or is this some new approach?**

A. This is the position that revolutionary Marxists have always taken in such situations. In 1938 Leon Trotsky, one of the central leaders of the Russian revolution, offered the following observations on the relationship between the class struggle and the anti-imperialist struggle, in a discussion with an Argentine revolutionary union leader:

"I will take the most simple and obvious example. In Brazil there now reigns a semifascist regime that every

revolutionary can only view with hatred. Let us assume, however, that on the morrow England enters into a military conflict with Brazil. I ask you on whose side of the conflict will the working class be? I will answer for myself personally — in this case I will be on the side of 'fascist' Brazil against 'democratic' Great Britain.

"Why? Because in the conflict between them it will not be a question of democracy or fascism. If England should be victorious, she will put another fascist in Rio de Janeiro and will place double chains on Brazil. If Brazil on the contrary should be victorious, it will give a mighty impulse to national and democratic consciousness of the country and will lead to the overthrow of the Vargas dictatorship [which ruled Brazil from 1930 to 1945]."

"The defeat of England will at the same time deliver a blow to British imperialism and will give an impulse to the revolutionary movement of the British proletariat. Truly, one must have an empty head to reduce world antagonisms and military conflicts to the struggle between fascism and democracy. Under all masks one must know how to distinguish exploiters, slave-owners, and robbers!"

**GRENADA**  
Revolution in  
the Caribbean

by Sam Manuel  
& Andrew Pulley

\$ .95  
Order from: Pathfinder Press  
410 West Street  
New York, N.Y.  
10014  
(Include \$.75 for postage and handling.)

# U.S. backs Britain, strongarms Argentina in Malvinas conflict

BY FRED MURPHY

As a British armada of more than 50 ships continues on its course toward the Malvinas Islands, Washington has been stepping up its pressure on the Argentine government.

After condemning the Argentine reoccupation of the Malvinas in the United Nations, the Reagan administration announced that it was "neutral" in the dispute in order to enable Secretary of State Alexander Haig to act in negotiations. But as *New York Times* correspondent Edward Schumacher reported from Buenos Aires April 18, "Members of the ruling military junta are increasingly resentful of what they see as a pro-British tilt" by Washington.

When questioned by reporters in the Argentine capital April 18, Haig pointedly referred to "our longstanding obligations to Great Britain, which are well known."

Washington is even playing a direct and indispensable role in London's military moves. According to the April 15 *Wall Street Journal*, "The U.S. is providing Britain with fuel for its ships and aircraft, intelligence on the disposition of Argentine forces, weather information from space satellites, and a satellite communications channel."

At the U.S. military base on Ascension Island in the mid-Atlantic, the *New York Times* said April 17, "For more than 10 days, British aircraft have been ferrying in men, helicopters, ammunition and equipment so that it can be used as a forward staging point for the forces operating farther south."

## 'International piracy'?

Meanwhile, the capitalist news media in the United States have been virtually unanimous in cheering on the British fleet and urging Reagan to do still more for London's drive to reassert colonial rule over the Malvinas.

On April 13, the editors of the *New York Times* hailed the stiff economic sanctions imposed on Argentina by Britain and the other imperialist powers in the European Economic Community. Two days later, the *Times* cautioned Reagan that he should not be "mistakenly eager to demonstrate neutrality" and that "negotiation can occur only after a clearer American tilt toward London."

"There is no reason I can think of why the British should even consider negotiating," said columnist Joseph Harsch in the April 15 *Christian Science Monitor*. Harsch concluded:

"If the US favors stability in the world it had best support Britain's duty to rescue its own people from an act of international piracy. Besides, it would help hold the NATO alliance together."

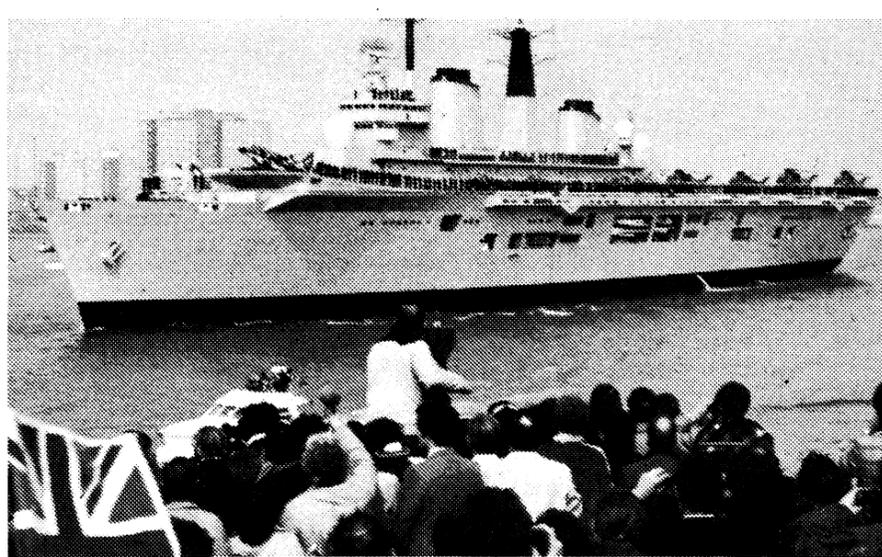
The editors of the *Wall Street Journal* are calling on Reagan to "stop apologizing for aiding the British with a little intelligence and start aiding them with an aircraft carrier." They agree that negotiations may help, but "the way to break the standoff will be to make it clear that if a British invasion is necessary the U.S. will not allow it to fail."

To do otherwise, say the *Journal* editors, "would probably mean the fall of the Thatcher government, a proven friend of American interests. The spectacle of so close a friend falling while the U.S. wrings its hands would have grave consequences for the Western alliance."

Of course, Washington would prefer to have Argentina relinquish the Malvinas without a fight. The U.S. rulers would rather not lose the advantages they have gained during their past year's rapprochement with the Buenos Aires junta — above all, collaboration in counterrevolutionary activity in Central America. Washington also knows that anti-interventionist protests would sweep Latin America in the event of a direct British attack.

## Thin support for Thatcher

The Thatcher government and the British press have been working overtime to whip up jingoism and support for military moves among the country's population. They have been aided in



HMS *Invincible*, part of 50-ship British armada steaming toward Malvinas Islands, leaves Portsmouth Harbor.

this, unfortunately, by the leaders of the opposition Labor Party, including most of those considered left-wingers.

However, the April 17 *Economist* cited the results of a poll taken in Britain on April 14 and complained that only 44 percent agreed that "retaining British sovereignty over the islands is important enough to justify the loss of British servicemen's lives."

The London *Guardian* warned April 15 that "if the shooting starts, if lives are lost, if we now become involved in a bloody and expensive war . . . then unity in the Commons [Parliament] will very likely collapse and the Government will be out on its own."

In this situation, antiwar forces in Britain can play an important role in stopping Thatcher's drive toward an attack on Argentina. On April 18 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), which has received important Labor Party support in the past, issued a statement demanding that Thatcher withdraw the British fleet and cancel the naval blockade around the Malvinas already being enforced by nuclear sub-

marines. The CND charged that Thatcher's policies showed a "dangerous spirit of military adventurism."

The British government claims to be defending the rights of the residents of the Malvinas. But many of these have expressed opposition to British military moves. Moreover, the April 12 *Wall Street Journal* reported, "According to a handful [of islanders] who have left since the invasion, there is growing sentiment that the islands might receive more development assistance from Buenos Aires."

Such feelings are not unrelated to something noted by two *Christian Science Monitor* correspondents in a dispatch from the islands' capital, Port Stanley (now renamed Puerto Rivero):

"The overriding political fact of the Falklands is that it has been treated as a private-profit domain by British absentee landlords. These landlords held control of most of the land and sheep, and for the most part took their profits out of the islands instead of reinvesting in their holdings."

From Intercontinental Press

## Where Nonaligned Movement stands

The following is from the April 14 English-language broadcast of Cuba's Radio Havana:

The Malvinas Islands crisis is drawing world attention to the colonialism still in effect in parts of Latin America. That phenomenon has come under harsh criticism from the UN and the Nonaligned Movement. We have the details on today's "Spotlight on Latin America."

The Nonaligned Movement's Sixth Summit, held in Havana in 1979, recalled the long struggle of the Latin American nations for their independence and sovereignty. It was also pleased with their determination to follow a nonaligned policy, fighting impe-

rialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and all forms of foreign domination.

The nonaligned leaders indicated that Latin America historically has been one part of the world consistently victimized by Washington's acts of aggression, as well as those of the European imperialist powers. The leaders expressed their conviction that colonialism, in all shapes and forms, should be wiped out of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Shortly after the summit, on Oct. 12, 1979, top Cuban leader Fidel Castro addressed the UN General Assembly on the question of the Malvinas Islands. As president of the Nonaligned Movement, he reiterated its firm support of Argentina's right to regain sovereignty of the islands. The movement asked that talks to accomplish that end be speeded up.

In asking for the restoration of the Malvinas Islands to Argentina, Fidel said the Havana summit again confirmed the essence of nonalignment spelled out in its declaration; that is to say, the fight against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, racism (including Zionism), and any other form of aggression, occupation, domination, intervention, and foreign expansionism.

At the Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi in February of 1981, the nonaligned countries ratified the understanding they reached on the Malvinas during the Havana summit. Once again, Argentina got the solid backing of most of the world's countries, which make up the movement.

After the New Delhi conference, in the economic part of the final statement, the nonaligned prime ministers reiterated their support of nations still suffering under colonial domination and foreign occupation, and reaffirmed these nations' inalienable right to full sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity, and to use all means possible to liberate their countries from

foreign control.

The foreign ministers also expressed the duty of all nations to work against colonial domination and foreign occupation, and to support those countries still colonized. They highlighted the goal of getting rid of these major obstacles to freedom at the earliest possible date.

As Cuba's ambassador to Argentina has said: "The Malvinas are an inalienable part of Argentina, and Cuba has always maintained a very clear position on this point. We defended it in all international forums, we said it in every possible way. Even our president, Fidel Castro, urged the restoration of the Malvinas to Argentina during his student days."

The situation is clear enough. The confrontation is between a Latin American country, belonging to the Nonaligned Movement, and a colonial power who had been controlling part of Argentina's territory for 149 years.

## British consulate picketed in New York

NEW YORK — The British consulate here was picketed April 16 to protest Britain's attacks on Argentina and Ireland.

A group of demonstrators — including members of the H-Block Committee, an Irish support group; Socialist Workers Party; and Young Socialist Alliance — picketed outside the consulate, chanting "British hands off Argentina"; "British out of Ireland"; and "U.S. out of El Salvador."

The protesters later joined forces with activists in Irish Northern Aid, another support organization that regularly demonstrates at the consulate. Among the chants were "British colonialism in Latin America must go"; "Stop the torture in Ireland"; and other slogans.

## Socialist Challenge SPECIAL OFFER TO US SUBSCRIBERS

**SOCIALIST CHALLENGE**, weekly paper sponsored by the British section of the Fourth International, the International Marxist Group, offers a revolutionary analysis of events in the British class struggle and internationally. Yours for one year for only \$40.00 air mail or \$30.00 sea mail.

(Ten dollars cheaper than normal rates)

**INTERNATIONAL**, bi-monthly theoretical review of the International Marxist Group.

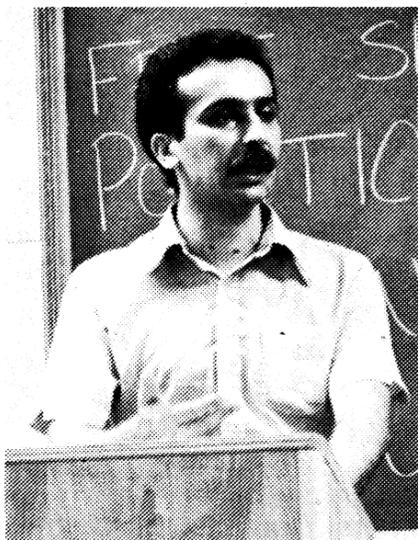
Six issues (one year) for only \$20.00 air mail or \$12.00 surface.

(Twenty per cent reduction)

**SOCIALIST CHALLENGE** plus **INTERNATIONAL**: \$50.00 air mail or \$35.00 surface.

Offer lasts until 1st June 1982.

Hurry, hurry, hurry, send your cheques to Intercontinental Press/Inprecor, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Payable to ICP.



Militant/Rich Robohm

**Bahram Atai, now in jail, is longtime revolutionary militant.**

# Protest campaign launched to defend 3 Iranian socialists

Two leaders of Iran's Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE), Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, are being held without charges in Evin Prison in Tehran. The HKE is one of three organizations in Iran affiliated to the Fourth International.

Atai is a member of the HKE's Political Bureau. He was taken to prison on March 29 after responding to a subpoena from the Tehran Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office. Less than a month earlier, Atai had been released from Evin Prison after being held there since December 11 of last year.

In an interview published in the

March 8 issue of *Kargar* Atai had described widespread abuses and violations of the law by officials and guards at Evin Prison that he witnessed during his confinement there.

After the interview with Atai was published, officials from the prosecutor's office went to the office of Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, who is responsible for printing *Kargar*. They questioned him about the paper's contents and then arrested him. He has been held at Evin Prison since March 15.

Harassment against *Kargar* was subsequently stepped up. On March 26, the prosecutor's office issued an order sus-

pending the paper's publication.

Another ominous move against *Kargar* and its supporters came during the first week of April, when a young soldier, Hassan Sadegh, was sentenced by a military court in Ahwaz to 10 years in prison. Sadegh had been charged with reading and circulating *Kargar* to his fellow soldiers.

Atai and Falsafi are both longtime members of the Iranian Trotskyist movement. Both were active defenders of victims of the shah's regime during their years of exile in the United States prior to the revolution. Upon returning to Iran, they worked at the Iran National auto factory.

When the Iraqi regime launched its invasion of Iran in September 1980, Atai and Falsafi were both among the many Iran National workers who volunteered for service in the Baseej-e-Mustazafin (Mobilization Corps of the Oppressed). Atai served at the war front, and Falsafi was the elected leader of his Baseej unit at Iran National.

The two socialist leaders were dismissed from their jobs at Iran National when the management began removing militant workers in early 1981.

Falsafi and Atai both have lawsuits against the government pending in the Iranian courts.

The HKE is carrying on a campaign inside Iran to gain the release of Atai, Falsafi, and Sadegh, and to defend its right to legally publish *Kargar*. The newspaper's formal certification of legality by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance has not been rescinded, so the action of the prosecutor's office is clearly illegal.

The socialists are taking their campaign to the workers' organizations in the factories and to organizations like the Baseej, the Revolutionary Guards, and the Crusade for Reconstruction (an organization of young volunteers who teach literacy and provide other forms of assistance to the rural population). The HKE explains that attacks on the democratic rights of the toilers weakens defense of the revolution against imperialism.

Efforts by those who support the Iranian revolution and oppose U.S. imperialism's attacks on it can help to free these anti-imperialist, working-class fighters. Telegrams such as the following should be sent to Hojatoleslam Mousavi Tabrizi, Prosecutor General, Islamic Revolutionary Courts, Tehran, Iran. Send copies to *Jomhuri-e-Eslami*, Tehran, Iran:

"As a supporter of the Iranian revolution and an opponent of the U.S. government's threats against it, I urge you to release the anti-shah, anti-imperialist fighters Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, who are being held without charges at Evin Prison in Tehran. I also urge the release of the anti-imperialist soldier Hassan Sadegh, who has been unjustly sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in Ahwaz."

From *Intercontinental Press*

## Newark ballot fight

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

NEWARK — A judge's decision to uphold Mayor Kenneth Gibson's barring of Laura Garza, his socialist opponent, from the May 11 ballot is being challenged.

An appeal of the decision before a three-judge panel is set for April 22.

Socialist Workers campaign supporters held a rally April 17 and a picket line two days later, at the Hall of Records, to protest the decision.

Addressing the rally were Garza; Claire Moriarty, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; and Gregory Pardlo, of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization.

Protest messages demanding ballot status for Garza should be sent to Frank D'Ascensio, City Clerk, City Hall, Newark, N.J.

## Teachers hit move to deport socialist

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

Teachers in Minnesota have denounced the attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport Héctor Marroquín.

Marroquín, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance, had his request for political asylum rejected by the INS on March 23. He has been ordered to leave the country within 30 days or be forcibly deported. On April 20 lawyers filed an appeal on behalf of Marroquín that will stay the deportation order until the appeal has been heard.

Upon hearing of the INS decision, the president of the Anoka-Hennepin Education Association sent the following mailgram to Alan Nelson, director of the INS:

"The Anoka-Hennepin Education Association, representing 15,950 teachers, strongly protests the INS decision denying political asylum to Héctor Marroquín.

"Mr. Marroquín certainly has the same right to asylum as any other exile, despite his political views. The facts seem to indicate, however, that your department criteria for who should be allowed to stay and who should be deported are politically motivated.

"It is also clear to us that Mr. Marroquín faces persecution, if not death, if he is forced to return to Mexico. Therefore, we strongly insist that the INS ruling be rescinded, and that Héctor Marroquín be granted asylum in the United States."

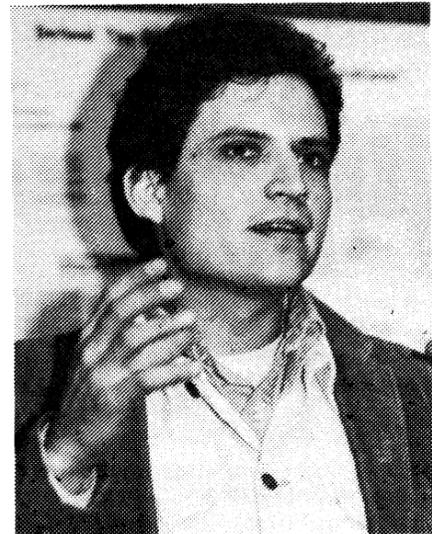
The mailgram was signed by Sue Evert, president of the Anoka-Hennepin Education Association.

Marroquín will begin a national

speaking tour soon. On the weekend of April 29-May 2, he will be on hand at the national convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) to get the facts out about his case and to solicit the support of women trade unionists at this event.

On May 11, Marroquín is scheduled to speak in Tucson, Arizona, at the South Side Presbyterian Church, the same church that has granted sanctuary to Salvadoran refugees fighting INS attempts to deport them back to El Salvador.

Continued support will be needed every step of the way as Marroquín's case unfolds. For more information on tour dates, and for literature on the case, contact Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, % Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649 Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003.



Militant/Lou Howort

**Héctor Marroquín is fighting for right to political asylum in U.S.**

## Vietnam vets plan protest

BY JOEL GREENBERG AND JON HILLSON

CHICAGO — It was 11 years ago when the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), electrified the country as hundreds of vets returned their combat medals on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

That was Operation Dewey Canyon III, named in the code words for the secret bombing and subsequent U.S. invasion of Kampuchea (Cambodia) in 1970.

Starting on May 12 and continuing through May 15, hundreds of Vietnamese veterans will return to Washington

for a series of protests in Operation Dewey Canyon IV.

Called by the VVAW, it is backed by the National Association of Black Veterans, Black Veterans for Social Justice, National Association of Concerned Veterans, Vets Coalition of Southern California, Agent Orange Victims of New Jersey, and Veterans Incarceration Project of San Francisco.

Several state and local union bodies are also supporting the action, along with International Association of Machinists (IAM) President William Winpinger.

The protests are being spurred, VVAW national office member Bill Davis told the *Militant* recently, by a combination of factors.

"Reagan's budget cuts have been incredible. Every program relating to Vietnam veterans has been cut virtually to elimination," said Davis, a mechanic and member of the IAM.

Tens of thousands of Vietnam vets are permanently disabled. Twice as many veterans are unemployed as non-veterans. The figures increase for Black and Latino vets. One in every four vets earns less than \$7,000 a year.

Chemical defoliants and poisons like Agent Orange contaminate untold hundreds of thousands, while delayed stress disorders plague 700,000 Vietnam veterans, according to the Veterans Administration.

This human toll isn't worth repeating in another Vietnam in Central America, Davis says. The threat of a U.S. war in Central America, he says, "has started to reactivate Vietnam veterans, including old VVAW members."

The actions in Washington demand decent benefits for all vets, full aid to victims of Agent Orange, restoration of all Veteran's Administration cutbacks, no U.S. aid to the El Salvadoran government, support to incarcerated veterans, and jobs or income for unemployed vets.

## Midwest May Day solidarity rally

BY JON HILLSON

CHICAGO — Hundreds of solidarity and antiwar activists are expected to attend a Midwest regional rally against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean here on May 1.

The event, "An Evening in Solidarity with the Peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and the Freedom Fighters of Central America and the Caribbean," is sponsored by the Chicago-Gary Young Socialist Alliance.

Keynote speakers include Victor Rubio, a representative of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front, and American Indian Movement national leader Vernon Bellecourt.

The Native American figure recently returned from Nicaragua and has been speaking out in defense of the Sandinista government's policy towards the Indian population, which has been the target of CIA and U.S. State Depart-

ment slanders.

Other featured speakers include representatives from the Grenada Revolutionary League; Casa Nicaragua; the Palestine Liberation Organization; and Socialist Workers Party political committee member Larry Seigle.

The event takes place at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 4840 South Dorchester, in Chicago and begins with a 6:30 p.m. social hour. The rally begins at 7:30 p.m.

Walter Urroz, a well known Nicaraguan activist in the Chicago area, will provide music for the evening.

Socialist Workers Party branches and Young Socialist Alliance chapters throughout the Midwest will be providing transportation to the event. These include Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Lincoln, Louisville, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Toledo, and Twin Cities, whose telephone numbers and addresses are listed on page 17.

A special collection will be taken, the proceeds from which will help sustain the *Intercontinental Press/Perspectiva Mundial* bureau in Managua, Nicaragua.

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 5 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

# Black candidate fights curb on campaign

## Denial of leave aimed at workers' political rights, Mason charges

BY JANICE LYNN

MONTEREY, Calif. — Supporters of independent gubernatorial candidate Mel Mason crowded into the April 14 meeting of the Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) Board of Trustees holding picket signs in support of Mason's right to run for governor.

Mason, who has been employed at the college for the past seven years as student activities coordinator, had made a simple request for a seven-month leave of absence in order to campaign full time for the California governorship.

But in a direct slap in the face to Mason and to the right of any person who works for a living to run for office, the board voted 3-to-1 to deny Mason's request.

College President Max Tadlock recommended that Mason's leave be denied on the basis that it would "set a precedent which is not in the best interests of the institution." Tadlock said it could serve as a precedent for other people who would want to run for office or who wanted to secure other employment.

Mason is an elected city councilman from the city of Seaside and a socialist. He told the board that in terms of precedent, by denying his leave the board was in fact setting a very dangerous precedent.

"Refusing to grant an employee a leave to run for public office is not only an infringement upon the constitutional rights of working people, but it puts working people in the position of not ever being able to participate fully in the electoral process," Mason said. "It upholds the kind of political elitism in this country that my campaign opposes, where only rich people are able to run for and hold office.

"The issue is whether people like me who work for a living can run for elected political office without having to ask if it is OK to do so."

### Double standard

Mason pointed out that none of his gubernatorial opponents — Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Attorney General George Deukmejian, or Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb — have to appeal for a leave of absence to campaign fully in the elections.

"It is clear that what is really behind this decision is the fact that the board is opposed to what my campaign stands for," Mason declared. "By their decision the Democratic and Republican members of this board are preventing my program for working people and small farmers from being presented on the same level as the candidates of the two parties of the rich. This is discriminatory."

As a socialist and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Mason is opposed to the draft, is campaigning against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, and calls for a massive public works program to create jobs for all.

Sam Manuel, Monterey Peninsula coordinator of the Mason for Governor campaign, presented the board with petitions signed by nearly 400 students, faculty, and workers at the college in support of Mason's request for a leave.

In addition the board received letters, mailgrams, and petitions from hundreds of unionists and other supporters of Mason's request for a leave of absence from throughout California, including one from Raoul Teilhet, president of the California Teachers Association.

Manuel blasted the board's cynicism in equating running for public office with seeking another job.

### 'Stifle political ideas'

"Mason is addressing very crucial issues not addressed by any of the other candidates," Manuel said. "Like the potential of a war in El Salvador, like how to create jobs in this state where 100,000 people have been thrown out of jobs.

"Your decision can only be seen as an

attempt to stifle political ideas in this election. In fact it does deny Mel Mason the right to run for office. It is inconceivable that someone can campaign for governor of this state in a two-week vacation period."

Kevin Miller, vice-president of the MPC Associated Students, read a resolution passed by the student government in support of Mason's request for a leave of absence.

David Prince, of the statewide Mason for Governor campaign, reported to the board that legal action against the board's decision is already prepared. "We feel that the right to participate in the elections is a fundamental right that is guaranteed by law. This includes the right to fully explain one's ideas and the right of working people to hear for themselves what Mel Mason has to say and to decide if they want to vote for him."

Several other persons spoke in support of Mason's leave.

The nonvoting student member of the board, Noble Clark, asked that it be inserted into the minutes that he too favored granting Mason's leave of absence.

Board member Florence Hunter made a motion to approve Mason's leave, stating that she had always been told everyone should participate in government. There were no seconds and the motion died.

Board member Sherman Smith, a self-proclaimed "life-long Democrat," quickly moved to deny Mason's leave. Sherman disdainfully noted that Mason was merely a classified employee, not part of the faculty, and therefore had no right to a seven-month leave.

### Aimed at ballot drive

This conscious attempt to disrupt and interfere with Mason's independent

campaign for governor is but the opening shot in a concerted effort to prevent Mason from getting on the ballot in California and from presenting his socialist solutions to the problems faced by working people and farmers in this state.

"We will not be stopped," Mason declared to his supporters following the board meeting.

"We will begin petitioning throughout this state on April 24 and will be distributing thousands of pieces of literature that will address the key issues in this election.

"We will take this question of the right of working people to run for office all the way up to the Supreme Court if that's what it takes to reverse this decision."

Protest letters and telegrams supporting Mason's right to a leave of absence should be sent to: Board of Trustees, Monterey Peninsula College, 980 Fremont Blvd., Monterey, California 93940. Telephone: (408) 646-4010.

Send copies to: Mason for Governor Campaign Committee, 1897 Napa St., Seaside, California 93955.



Militant/Larry Lukecart

Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California.

## Proindependence Puerto Ricans persecuted for refusal to testify before grand jury

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

Norberto Cintrón Fiallo is serving an 18-month prison sentence. Carlos Noya Muratti was recently released after 18 months in jail. Ivette Alfonso is faced with going to jail. None of them has been accused of any crime, nor have they been allowed to defend themselves in a trial.

Like other Puerto Rican activists, they are all victims of the same process. And they have something more in common: they are fighters for the independence of their country.

Cintrón Fiallo is a trade union leader in Puerto Rico. Alfonso is a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party in New Jersey. Noya Muratti is a member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist League.

The three had been summoned to testify before a U.S. federal grand jury. The authorities want to link Alfonso with the robbery of a Brink's armored truck last October. The pretext for the summons was that she had — several years ago — once met one of those accused of the robbery. As for Cintrón Fiallo and Noya Muratti, like other independence fighters, the U.S. prosecutors hoped to link them to the actions of armed Puerto Rican groups.

As an institution, the grand jury was one of the democratic gains of the struggle against feudalism in England and the revolution for independence of the 13 British colonies. The idea then was that the agents of the crown couldn't even indict you without presenting evidence before a jury of common, ordinary citizens. The grand jury would decide if there was enough evidence to prosecute.

But the U.S. government has turned the grand jury into a tool of repression that functions above the law.

In Puerto Rico, where citizens eligible to be members of a grand jury must be fluent in English and must not be proindependence, the main function of such juries has been to harass and persecute activists of the independence and labor movements.

Alfonso, Cintrón Fiallo, and Noya Muratti have refused to collaborate with the grand jury. In theory any person may refuse to testify and be protected by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But for the "crime" of exercising this constitutional right, these Puerto Rican patriots have been thrown in prison.

In such cases, those who refuse to cooperate remain in jail until they change their minds and testify or until the term of the grand jury expires. But at the end of the term the government can simply impanel another grand jury and throw you back in jail for 18 more months.

Another recent victim of the grand jury is Jorge A. Farinacci, a proindependence labor lawyer and a member of the editorial board of the socialist magazine *Pensamiento Crítico*. Farinacci was arrested in mid-March, following a false accusation by a grand jury that he had participated in a 1977 bank robbery in Bayamón, Puerto Rico.

More such victims can be expected. Between February 24 and March 1, FBI agents visited three members of the Socialist Workers Movement (MST) of Puerto Rico and threatened to link them with an alleged theft of explosives on the island.

The agents warned MST member Irma Gracia, that she would have two choices when summoned before the grand jury: that of Alfredo Méndez, who collaborated with the authorities and testified against 10 independence fight-

ers who were accused in Chicago of belonging to the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN); or that of Ángel Rodríguez Cristóbal, a leader of the Socialist League who was murdered in 1979 in a federal prison in Florida. He had been detained there for participating in a protest against the presence of U.S. Marines on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

These stepped-up attacks on Puerto Rican independence activists come at a time when the international economic recession is hitting Puerto Rico much harder than the United States. Militant strikes like those of the electrical workers and the students at the University of Puerto Rico rocked the island last year. The colonial status of the island is being publicly questioned more and more.

The repression against Puerto Rican independence fighters is part of the Reagan administration's offensive against the working class and the oppressed in Puerto Rico, the United States, and around the world, and above all against the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean. Defense of these imprisoned independence fighters is everyone's responsibility.

From *Perspectiva Mundial*

### PUERTO RICO: U.S. COLONY IN THE CARIBBEAN

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

24 pp., 35 cents

Order today from Pathfinder Press,  
410 West Street, New York, N.Y.  
10014. Write for a free catalog.

## North Dakota antiwar sales

The University of North Dakota at Grand Forks was the site of a weekend of antiwar activities April 17-18.

Kathy Wheeler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, traveled along with a team of supporters to Grand Forks. They participated in a march of 500 protesting nuclear weapons.

Interest in what the socialists had to say about events in Central America and the war drive of the Reagan administration was high.

A total of 50 papers were sold, including 38 copies of the new issue of the *Young Socialist*, newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance, which features a front-page article on the fight against Washington's war drive. In addition, 30 buttons were sold, the most popular ones being "Jobs, Not War" and "No Draft."

The team met two young farmers from Climax, Minnesota, who liked what Wheeler had to say and offered to set up a campaign meeting for her when they returned home.

## Interest in steel coverage

Steelworkers across the country have been voting for local union officers. These elections take place in the context of big givebacks negotiated in other industries, particularly the auto industry. The steelworkers are

scheduled to begin their national contract negotiations this summer.

Mitchel Rosenberg is the SWP candidate for the Indiana House of Representatives and a member of Local 1014 at U.S. Steel Gary Works. He and other socialist steelworkers sold 25 copies of last week's *Militant* with the back-page article on the steel elections. Fourteen of these were sold by Rosenberg outside the plant gate where he works. Rosenberg reports that there was also a lot of interest in the article in the *Militant* on the General Motors contract.

Socialist steelworkers also attended a meeting of the Rank-and-File Caucus of Local 1010, Inland Steel. Seven copies of the *Militant* were sold.

## 'Perspectiva' sales boosted

Sales of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*, are stepping up.

Sales director Betsey Stone from Los Angeles explained that half of the papers they sell each week are *PMs*. "Everywhere we sell there are people who speak Spanish. So you have to have *PM* with you wherever you go."

In Houston, 19 copies of *PM* were sold last week in the Chicano community.

In Salt Lake City, 11 *PMs* were sold at a Spanish-language movie theater.

Over 35 *PMs* have been sold each week of the drive in Phoenix.

## Schenectady GE strike

Workers at the giant General Electric plant in Schenectady, New York, recently went out on a three-day strike to protest "farming out" of work to unorganized GE shops.

Supporters of Patricia Mayberry, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, have distributed hundreds of copies of a campaign leaflet to GE workers. The leaflet reprinted an article from the *Militant*, headlined "Massive picket foils union busters at GE," along with a statement by Mayberry in support of the demands of the GE workers. The leaflet also announced an upcoming campaign rally in Albany to launch the statewide SWP campaign for governor.

## Utah sales high among miners

For two weeks in a row, the newly formed branch of the Socialist Workers Party in the western coal mining community of Price, Utah, has surpassed its sales goal.

This week the branch sold 52 papers, including six subscriptions. Sales are mainly to coal miners in Price and nearby communities.

While going door-to-door in the area, socialists have also found miners interested in subscribing to the *Militant* and *PM*. Since the beginning of the sales drive, 15 subscriptions have been sold, including 3 to *PM*.

—NANCY ROSENSTOCK

## SALES SCOREBOARD

Area	(Militant issue #14, PM issue #7)		Total Goal/Sold	%
	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold		
Houston	50/75	10/19	60/94	157
Phoenix	75/97	20/37	95/134	141
Denver	80/94	5/11	85/105	124
Toledo	50/57	0/1	50/58	116
Price	45/47	2/5	47/52	111
Tucson	40/38	10/16	50/54	108
Piedmont	85/91	0/0	85/91	107
Indianapolis	75/80	0/0	75/80	107
Brooklyn	140/150	30/31	170/181	106
Manhattan	75/74	25/31	100/105	105
Birmingham	90/94	0/0	90/94	104
Salt Lake City	90/87	5/11	95/98	103
Iron Range	50/50	0/0	50/50	100
Gary	75/75	5/2	80/77	96
Seattle	80/73	0/4	80/77	96
Portland	70/60	0/0	70/60	86
San Antonio	70/54	20/19	90/73	81
Schenectady	90/72	0/0	90/72	80
Cleveland	53/41	7/7	60/48	80
Baltimore	110/86	0/1	110/87	79
St. Louis*	90/63	0/2	90/65	72
Chicago	125/90	15/10	140/100	71
Twin Cities	135/97	5/2	140/99	71
Newark	120/69	20/27	140/96	69
Louisville	80/54	0/0	80/54	68
Oakland	60/35	5/3	65/38	58
Miami	60/32	10/8	70/40	57
Wash., DC	70/38	20/10	90/48	53
Cincinnati	70/36	0/0	70/36	51
Los Angeles	140/48	25/30	165/78	47
Milwaukee	90/46	10/1	100/47	47
San Francisco	100/41	20/7	120/48	40
San Jose	60/27	20/5	80/32	40
Boston*	140/52	10/2	150/54	36
Albuquerque	65/22	15/5	80/27	34
San Diego	50/19	15/2	65/21	32
Atlanta	100/20	0/0	100/20	20
Detroit*	115/15	5/4	120/19	16
Kansas City*	105/15	5/0	110/15	14
Philadelphia	140/10	15/1	155/11	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,988/2,324</b>	<b>369/314</b>	<b>4,357/2,638</b>	<b>61</b>

Areas not reporting: Charleston,\* Dallas, Harrisburg, Lincoln, Morgantown,\* New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Tidewater.\*  
\*Petitioning to put socialist candidates on the ballot.

# Socialist auto worker offers jobs proposal



Beth Julien (left), socialist candidate for U.S. Senate, talks with auto workers at Indianapolis GM plant.

BY DAVE ELLIS

INDIANAPOLIS — Growing anger at the arrogant contract demands of General Motors was evident to supporters of Beth Julien, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, as they campaigned among auto workers in this area.

Julien, 26, was recently laid off at GM's Detroit Diesel Allison in Indianapolis. Volunteers for her campaign distributed over 1,000 copies of her open letter to auto workers at United Auto Workers union polling places during contract voting.

Allison's UAW Local 933, largest in the state, and Local 23 at Chevrolet both

rejected the proposed contract by substantial margins. They were, said the *Indianapolis Star*, "the center of opposition in Indiana to the GM concessions agreement."

In the week preceding the vote at Allison's, Julien participated in the widespread discussions about the contract offer. A number of Allison's more than 12,000 workers are former Chrysler workers. Their first-hand experience with concessions, they told her, didn't save their jobs.

"I voted in 1979 for major givebacks to Chrysler," said one worker, who had 14 years' seniority there. "I'll never do it again. I was laid off immediately after-

ward. A contract like this weakens the union. It's just what they did to the air controllers. They're after our union."

Upon learning that Julien's campaign calls for forming a labor party based on the unions, one young co-worker commented: "You've got the right idea. The Democrats and Republicans are nothing but legalized crooks."

In her open letter, Julien detailed many of the outrageous "highlights" of the proposed pact. The fact that rank-and-file auto workers don't actually see the contract they're expected to vote on brought this response from one irate worker:

"How can they expect us to judge something we don't even see? It's like going to a bank, taking out a loan, and never reading the terms of the loan."

Many auto workers at both plants had already heard of Julien's campaign. A column in the *Indianapolis Star* on the day of the vote had featured an exchange between the socialist candidate and a worker who supported the contract.

Other workers had seen television and newspaper coverage of a news conference Julien held at a local unemployment office where she filed for benefits.

At that news conference Julien called for a reduction of the workweek to 30 hours with 40 hours pay, to provide jobs for all who need them. She declared that any company incapable of guaranteeing job security at a living wage should be nationalized under workers' control.

She also called for eliminating the war budget and using that money to put laid-off workers back to work providing society's needs.

"This program for jobs," Julien said, "puts human needs before profits. But it could never be carried out by the current government of the rich. The two big-business parties that now govern must be challenged by a labor party that could fight to establish a new govern-

ment of workers and farmers."

While some auto workers thought these proposals were unrealistic, the majority reacted sympathetically. One young Black auto worker at Allison's decided to join the Young Socialist Alliance, the revolutionary youth organization in Indianapolis that is supporting Julien's campaign.

Mikail Abdul Al-Malik told the *Militant* what motivated his decision to join:

"I realized that the YSA promoted and supported equal rights for people in this country and around the world. It's the only organization I've seen that — regardless of race, religion, or whatever — puts people on an equal footing."

"Beth's campaign for Senate is for the good of working people and the unemployed. And it's a long-known fact that the Democrats and Republicans represent the viewpoint of the rich class."

Besides Al-Malik, almost a dozen of Julien's co-workers at Allison's are now regular readers of the *Militant*. Weekly meetings are being organized to involve these readers in campaign activities.

## Nicaragua radio quotes socialist candidate

MANAGUA — A statement issued by the campaign of Pat Mayberry, condemning the escalation of U.S.-backed attacks on Nicaragua and voicing solidarity with the revolution, was featured on "Noticiero Sandinista," the national evening news program here, March 26.

Mayberry is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from New York State's 28th District.

The statement, from which several paragraphs were read, was cited as an indication of the unpopularity of Reagan's war moves among working people in the United States.

# Working farmers suffer worst crisis since depression of the 1930s



Farm being auctioned off.

BY WILLIAM GOTTLIEB

The long yellow sheet with the heading "Farm Close Out Auction" was posted everywhere around the Iowa farming community. Under the heading were listed the farm equipment and personal possessions of Lanell Rowland. She and her late husband had operated a 128-acre farm since 1939. But she could no longer make a go of it. Last year she could have sold the land for \$1,700 an acre. But now the going price is only \$700 an acre.

The troubles of working farmers are not confined to Iowa.

"There's not 10 farmers in Berrien County [Georgia] that don't owe piles of money to the banks or the Farmers Home Administration," said livestock farmer and farm equipment dealer Bobby Rowan. "There's nobody with enough money left this year to buy anything except what they need to eat and plant their land. We've got small manufacturing plants around here and most of 'em are now on two- or three-day workweeks. If that isn't a depression, you tell me what is."

These are just a couple of examples of how the economic crisis is affecting rural America.

## Cost-price squeeze

In 1981 a bushel of corn sold for about \$2.75. But it cost the farmer \$4.25 to \$4.75 to produce it. The price of cotton was as low as 35 cents per pound during 1981, but the cost of production was about 60 cents per pound.

This cost-price squeeze has sent farm income plunging. In 1979 net farm income was \$32.7 billion. In 1980 it slumped to \$19.9 billion, "recovering" to \$22.9 billion in 1981. This year it could fall as low as \$15 billion. That would be less than 46 percent of the 1979 level. To get some idea of the impact, imagine how workers would feel if their wages were cut by half — in this inflationary period.

## Debt burden

In southwestern Minnesota a survey found that net income per farm averaged only \$1,069 in 1981 — a 98 percent drop from the 1980 figure. Overall, net farm income adjusted for inflation is at the lowest level since the darkest days of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

But even these figures don't tell the whole story.

Farmers are now burdened with a total debt of \$200 billion. This is more than a dozen times the expected net farm income for this year. As recently as 1977 this debt load was only \$100 billion. Such a debt would be difficult to handle even during a period of rising farm prices. But the prices farmers receive are 7.7 percent lower than last year. Farmers are particularly dependent on credit. They must borrow not only to purchase expensive farm machinery, but also to obtain cash for seed, fodder, fertilizer, and living expenses until crops are ready for market.

The astronomical level of interest rates has sent the number of bankruptcies, forced sales, and foreclosures soaring. Of the \$23 billion worth of farm debts held by the government's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) nearly \$15 billion — 65 percent — is classified as "delinquent." In 1980 this government agency had 127 "voluntary" liquidations and foreclosed on 133 farmers. In the four-month period from October 1, 1981, to Jan. 31, 1982, the federal agency had 871 "voluntary" liquidations and foreclosed on 421 farms.

If this rate continues, almost 20 times as many farms will be liquidated by the FmHA in the current fiscal year as were liquidated in 1980.

## Falling farmland prices

Another problem is that the price of farmland is falling. During the inflationary 1970s capitalist speculators bought up great amounts of farmland. It seemed a sure bet that the price of farmland would keep on rising, ensuring the speculator a profit.

This made it harder for a farmer to purchase or rent land. But it made it easier to obtain credit to purchase needed machinery.

But now the falling price of land is putting additional pressure on farmers. In an interview with the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Ed Schuh, head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, described the effects of falling farmland prices.

"What happens is that a failing farmer has to sell his land on a weak market," Schuh explained. "He must sell, so he takes a lower price, and that pushes the market even further down. If that happens enough, the bankers who are holding mortgages on other farms

start to get nervous, so they start putting pressure on those farmers. If that produces more failures on a weak market — well, you see what you get into. It's a downward spiral just like the upward spiral we've had over the last decade."

Working farmers are also victimized by mass unemployment.

For many working farmers, holding an outside job has become a virtual necessity. The income from farming is simply not enough to meet expenses and live on. About half of all U.S. farm men and women hold outside jobs. With mass unemployment in industry, many of these farmer-workers are being laid off.

## Too much food?

What is the cause of this crisis? Is it due to massive crop failures or natural disasters?

No. On the contrary, production is high. In fact, the problem is that farmers are producing more than the capitalist world market can absorb at prices that are not absolutely ruinous to them. This is not the same as producing more than the world needs. But hungry people don't have the money to buy food.

In spite of world hunger, then, farmers are being driven off the land by huge stockpiles of unsold farm commodities. For example, American farmers produced 8.2 billion bushels of corn last year, but 2.02 billion bushels were not sold.

Throughout this century farmers have been plagued by a long-term cost-price squeeze. And this is always aggravated whenever there is a recession like the one today, especially when it is accompanied by a credit squeeze. This situation is compounded by the fact that purchasing and merchandizing of farm commodities is dominated by a handful of monopolies like Cargill Inc. and the Peavey Co.

The immense market power and price rigging of these monopolies explains why food prices in the supermarket keep rising while the prices that farmers receive fall.

Farmers are also hit as buyers. They have to buy farm machinery, seed, fertilizer, fuel, as well as household belongings from large corporations that charge monopoly prices. They may transport their products on railroads that charge monopoly rates.

"Unlike the corporations that withdraw capital from lines of business that become less profitable than average, farmers only have their farms. They do not have the option of shifting over to a more profitable line of business. For this reason farming tends to suffer from chronic overproduction, with the situation tending to get worse over time.

## Impact of cyclical crises

On top of these long-term factors, farmers are being hit by the current recession — one of the periodic crises of generalized overproduction inherent to capitalism. Not only farm commodities but almost all commodities have been produced in excess of demand backed up by the ability to pay. The capitalist corporations react to overproduction crises by shifting much of the burden onto working people.

When glutted markets threaten to drive down prices to levels that are unprofitable, the corporations reduce production and lay off workers. They hold production down until the "surplus" commodities have been absorbed by the market at high prices.

During these periods when production is curtailed or even suspended, the employers live off their accumulated capital.

Working farmers, in contrast, lack the "capital" to do this. In order to meet

their debts and have enough money to live on, working farmers must produce and sell every year, regardless of market conditions. This means that the cost-price squeeze on working farmers is greatly intensified when recession forces laid-off workers to reduce their consumption, and semicolonial countries to reduce their imports, of food.

## Capitalist 'solutions'

One "solution" that the the U.S. government came up with during the 1930s, and has used ever since, is to pay farmers not to produce. The idea is that the agricultural sector of the economy will then reduce its production like the industrial sector does in times of recession.

For example, the Reagan administration is preparing to offer wheat, cotton, and corn farmers special loans and payments if they reduce acreage. Wheat and cotton growers must reduce their acreage by 15 percent in order to qualify for these benefits, while corn farmers and other producers of animal fodder must reduce their acreage by 10 percent. In this way it is hoped that another record harvest will be avoided.

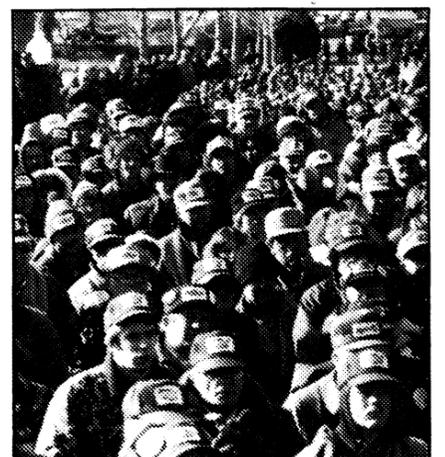
These subsidies, however, only end up benefiting a minority of the richer farmers. At the same time, cutting back production when people in this country and around the world are hungry points to the irrationality of capitalism.

Other capitalist spokespeople see a possible "solution" in crop failures in other parts of the world that would "clear" the world agricultural market.

Actually, the capitalists are pleased by the low agricultural prices. Commodities produced by working farmers are raw material for many branches of industry. The cheaper that raw materials are (all else remaining equal), the higher the rate of profit. Giant trading monopolies like Cargill always try to buy as cheaply as possible, since their profit is determined by the difference between the price they buy at and the price they sell at.

To the extent the very low prices of farm commodities are reflected in somewhat lower food prices at the supermarket, the bosses can get away with paying somewhat lower wages. The rate of profit will thus tend to be higher for the capitalists than it otherwise would be.

With some ups and downs in the capitalist business cycle, the squeeze on the working farmer will continue to intensify as long as the capitalist system exists.



## Marxism and the Working Farmer

An *Education for Socialists* bulletin. Includes "American Agriculture and the Working Farmer," by Doug Jenness; documents and speeches by Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Fidel Castro. 62 pp., \$2.50.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 postage and handling.

# Mideast general strike protests I

## Begin regime's threat of war ignites massive opposition in Mu



Palestinians carry away man wounded in attack by Israeli soldier in Jerusalem. In response to assault, which left two Palestinians dead, Arab and other Moslem nations staged a one-day general strike April 14.

### BY ERNEST HARSCH

Millions of Muslims participated in an unprecedented general strike throughout much of the Middle East April 14. They were protesting the attack by an Israeli soldier three days earlier on worshippers at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, one of the holiest Islamic religious sites, and against the Israeli government's brutal crackdown on the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

This protest — coming at a time when Israeli military forces are being readied for a new war of aggression against Lebanon — was a dramatic reminder of the extent of opposition that the Zionist state faces throughout the Middle East.

In response to outrage over the Dome of the Rock shooting, in which two Palestinians were killed, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia urged the world's 700 million Muslims to "extend the hand of assistance" to the Palestinians by going on strike.

According to a report in the April 15 *Washington Post*, "The strike grounded airliners along the Persian Gulf through Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Freighters stood in lines in idle gulf ports and the flow of petrodollars halted in closed banks and ministries. In Saudi Arabia and several of its conservative gulf neighbors, telephone and telex lines were severed until dusk, and shops were closed as tightly as on the Moslem day of rest."

"Non-Arab Moslem states participating included Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey."

In the southern Lebanese cities of Tyre and Sidon, Palestinians held demonstrations and hanged effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in response to a call for a week-long general strike by Palestinian figures in Jerusalem, were also shut down.

### Million protest in Tehran

The most militant response to the strike call outside of Palestine itself was in Iran.

More than 1 million persons demon-

strated in Tehran, the capital, near the former American embassy. They shouted slogans and carried signs denouncing both the Zionist regime and American imperialism. Significantly, there were also mass demonstrations in Mahabad, Naqadeh, and other cities in Kurdistan.

Iranian President Hojatolislam Ali Khamenei, speaking to the huge crowd in Tehran, called for the creation of a multinational army of volunteers from throughout the Islamic world to fight in support of the Palestinians. He also urged Muslim oil-producing countries to cut off or reduce their oil exports to Washington and other imperialist powers that support Israel. He said that "the oil weapon should be used in support of our Palestinian brothers against the Zionist regime."

This point was also touched on in a statement by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which was read out at the rally and broadcast over the official radio. "It is shameful," Khomeini said, "for Islamic countries that have the jugular vein of the world superpowers in their hands to sit and watch America set a corrupt and worthless entity against them."

### Israel masses troops

One factor behind the broad scope of these protests is the realization throughout the region that the Zionist government is driving systematically toward a new Middle East war.

Just the week leading up to the general strike, the Israeli authorities made some of their most threatening statements and military moves in months.

On April 5, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared that the armed forces would strike out at the Palestinian organizations, "their heads, their leaders, their centers, their bases — everywhere that we find them. We will strike at them without reservation, without end."

A few days later, several divisions of Israeli troops were massed in northern Israel, along the border with Lebanon. United Nations sources reported sighting large numbers of Israeli tanks just south of the border and in the Israeli-controlled enclave where the rightist

Lebanese forces of Maj. Saad Haddad are entrenched.

Col. Asmi Seghair, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) commander in Tyre, just 12 miles inside Lebanon, said April 9 that the number of Israeli helicopter patrols had increased in previous days.

In an interview with *New York Times* correspondent Flora Lewis on April 11, PLO leader Yasir Arafat warned of an imminent Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "The military massing has been completed," he said. "There are three to four divisions."

Arafat said that in addition to planes, tanks, artillery, and armored vehicles, the Israeli forces had "forbidden weapons — cluster bombs, fragmentation

bombs, gas bombs and napalm."

"I'm preparing for the worst case," he said, anticipating Israeli bombings of Palestinian refugee "camps and centers, Lebanese villages and cities."

In a dispatch from Beirut April 11, *Times* correspondent Marvine Howe reported, "Lebanese and Palestinian leaders express the conviction privately that Israel has decided on a major strike on Palestinian positions in Lebanon and the only questions that remain are when and what the pretext will be."

### Opposition to war policies

Both Washington and Tel Aviv would dearly love to strike a major blow against the Palestinian national liberation movement, and against other anti-imperialist struggles in the Middle East. But they are also weighing the risks involved.

Provoked by new Israeli measures to tighten Tel Aviv's grip on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the 1.3 million Palestinians of those territories have been in revolt against the Zionist authorities for a month now, holding general strikes, staging marches and demonstrations, and engaging in running street battles with Israeli troops and police.

In the Golan Heights, which was formally annexed to Israel in December, the 14,000 Arabs there, who consider themselves Syrian citizens, have been on strike for two months, refusing to accept Israeli identity cards.

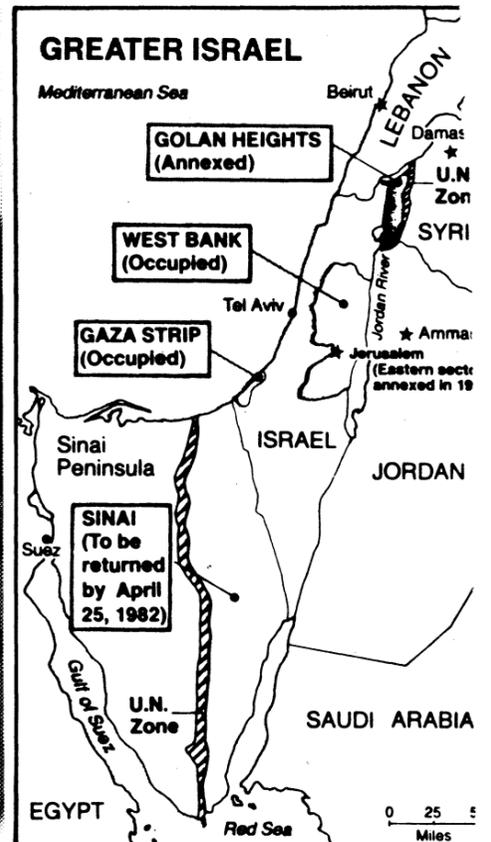
The March 31 *Jerusalem Post* commented that the Israeli crackdown in the occupied territories "is bound sooner or later to affect the thinking of Arabs within Israel."

That has already happened, as the *Jerusalem Post* itself is well aware. The day before, March 30, Arabs throughout Israel went on strike in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights and against the discrimination and oppression that they themselves face from the Zionist state.

Nor are the Palestinians the only ones to oppose Israeli government policies. Jewish workers in Israel are already resisting the high inflation rate, growing unemployment, and the regime's



Palestine Liberation Organization head Yasir Arafat (left) told *New York Times* regime of Menachem Begin (right) is imminent. "The military massing has been for the worst case."



# Israeli attacks on Palestinians

## slim countries

austerity measures. More and more of them are also realizing that the Begin regime is determined to drag them into war.

On March 27, some 40,000 to 50,000 Jews and Arabs demonstrated in Tel Aviv against Begin's war threats and the repression in the occupied territories.

### From the Malvinas to the Sinai

The American imperialists are also well aware of the opposition that an Israeli invasion of Lebanon would arouse throughout the region — not only against Israel, but also against Washington.

In considering the timing of any Israeli military move, Washington likewise has to take into account the situation in other parts of the world. An Israeli move could be embarrassing at a time when the imperialist rulers around the world are denouncing Argentine "aggression."

A more immediate consideration is the effect of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon could have on the Egyptian regime of Hosni Mubarak.

Following the Egyptian and Israeli signing of the Camp David accords in 1978 — and particularly under the impact of the Iranian revolution — no other Arab governments were willing to join in this framework. The Egyptian regime found itself politically isolated in the Arab world.

The Mubarak government has taken some steps to try to mend its fences with other Arab regimes.

At a conference of the Nonaligned Movement held in Kuwait in early April, the Egyptian delegate made no mention of the accords or their provision for Palestinian "autonomy" in the occupied territories. Instead, he called for the removal of the Israeli settlements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and for "the rights of the Palestinian people to end the Israeli occupation of their territories."

The Begin government screamed that this was "hostile propaganda" and a violation of the Camp David accords. It stepped up the pressures on the Mubarak regime by hinting that the return of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, which

was scheduled to be completed April 25, may be postponed. In exchange for handing over the Sinai, the Israeli authorities demanded a new expression of political fealty from Mubarak.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel was dispatched to Tel Aviv and Cairo to act as intermediary. As a result, Mubarak sent a letter to Begin April 16 that contained "very many expressions of goodwill," according to an Israeli official.

An Israeli press secretary described Begin as pleased with the letter and stated that "there is no reason to reconsider" the scheduled return of the Sinai.

## Solidarity's support defies Poland crackdown

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Precisely at 9:00 p.m. on April 12 people in apartments throughout Warsaw tuned their FM radios to 70.1 on the dial. "Radio Solidarity" was on the air.

The clandestine broadcast, which lasted eight minutes, was a dramatic and audacious example of the Solidarity union movement's continued resistance to martial law.

A male announcer called on listeners to flick their lights three times if the signal was coming in strongly, twice for well, and once for adequately. Lights in homes throughout the capital flickered, as union observers noted the strength of the signal in different parts of the city.

The announcers, a man and a woman, then spoke about the government's declaration of a state of war, "a war that the authorities declared against their own people." They cited the continued detention of some 4,000 unionists and political activists, and reports of beatings of political prisoners.

"Let us recall these events when we are told that life is returning to normal," the woman announcer said.

"There cannot be normalization in the country when people are being beaten or the innocent jailed, when human rights are being trampled on. To accept this as normal is to be a renegade to your conscience.

"We must fight for the release of those imprisoned, for the restoration of human dignity. Our radio station has taken up this struggle. All honorable Poles should do the same."

A song about a 14-day strike at the Piast coal mine against the imposition of martial law followed, and a call to listeners to mark the next day, the fourth month of martial law, with symbolic protests. The announcers promised that the underground station would be back on the air April 30.

### Mass demonstration in Gdansk

Three weeks earlier, in the coastal city of Gdansk where Solidarity was born out of the August 1980 strikes, tens of thousands of protesters turned out March 21 for the largest single demonstration since martial law was imposed.

The occasion was the baptismal ceremony for the seven-week-old daughter of Lech Walesa, Solidarity's imprisoned national chairperson. Walesa was not allowed to attend the ceremony, but the presence of the union that he helped build was obvious to everyone.

The crowd outside the church was huge. Estimates of its size ranged up to 50,000. Many of those in the crowd wore Solidarity buttons, although the wearing of union insignia is now outlawed. Others wore small electronic resistors on their lapels as symbols of their opposition to military rule.

Workers' delegations from around the country came to express their solidarity,

But nevertheless the Israeli authorities continued to press for even more concessions.

### New U.S. jets

Whatever hesitations there are in Washington or Tel Aviv about the timing of a new Israeli military drive, they are agreed that some attempt has to be made to drive back the anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East, beginning with the Palestinians.

For fiscal 1983, the White House has approved a \$1.7 billion arms sales package to Israel, on top of \$785 million in economic assistance. On March 31 it

was revealed that the military sales will include a new squadron of about 20 F-15 jet fighters.

These arms are intended for only one purpose: to strike out at the Arab revolution.

The upsurge in the occupied territories, the strength of the PLO, the massive anti-Zionist sentiment expressed by the April 14 general strike, all make the Israeli and American imperialists weigh the risks carefully. But at the same time they make it even more imperative for them to try to inflict a major blow against the Arab masses.

From Intercontinental Press

including from the largest factories in the coastal region and from Warsaw, Poznan, Koszalin, and Katowice. Each delegation gave Walesa's wife, Danuta, a bouquet of white and red flowers, in Poland's national colors.

When Danuta Walesa came out of the church, the crowd broke into chants of "Solidarity! Solidarity!" "Give Lech back to us!" and "Wiktoria!" the name of the Walesas' daughter, which was accompanied by V-for-victory signs. Everyone then sang the national anthem and a religious hymn.

The Radio Solidarity broadcast and the Gdansk demonstration were only two of the most dramatic displays of the union's continued mass support and its spirit of resistance.

The imposition of martial law, the suppression of many democratic rights, and the detention of most of Solidarity's national leadership was a major blow to the union and its 10 million members.

But throughout the country, young activists and more seasoned union veterans have set up workers committees and resistance "circles." They provide assistance to the families of detained unionists or those who have been fired from their jobs, organize symbolic protest actions and strikes, and circulate information and discussion bulletins.

Regional Solidarity coordinating bodies have been set up in Warsaw, Wroclaw, Lodz, Gdansk, Katowice, and other cities. A national body, the All-Poland Resistance Committee, has also been established, composed in part of members of Solidarity's National Committee who managed to evade arrest.

Nearly 700 illegal bulletins and news-sheets are in circulation. Some of them are typewritten, others are printed on offset presses. In Warsaw, *Wiadomosc Dnia* (Daily News) appears in editions of 120,000 copies every three weeks. *Tygodnik Mazowsze*, also in Warsaw, comes out every week in press runs of 10,000 each. Such publications are distributed by the bundle to factories and housing complexes.

Although the government-run news media ignores any reports of protest strikes, these bulletins have reported a growing number of work stoppages in Gdansk, Warsaw, and other cities, usually lasting 15 minutes or so. One of them took place at the Ursus tractor factory near Warsaw March 19.

### Detained leaders join debates

Nor are the Solidarity leaders who have been detained totally cut off from the rest of the union. A number of prominent figures have smuggled out statements that have been publicized in the bulletins.

A major statement by Jacek Kuron, one of the most prominent political activists in Poland, who is interned at the Bialoleka camp near Warsaw, appeared

in *Tygodnik Mazowsze*. Kuron argued for the building of a mass resistance movement and preparations for the ouster of the government as a way to force the authorities to compromise.

The same issue of the bulletin published articles by Zbigniew Bujak and Wiktor Kulerski, two Solidarity leaders in the Warsaw area who have evaded arrest. They polemicized against aspects of Kuron's statement. Bujak argued against building a centralized resistance movement, maintaining that it should be decentralized to minimize the effects of the repression. He also stressed that a "showdown" with the government could lead to greater repression and Soviet intervention.

Even within the internment camps, clandestine bulletins are being published. Four have appeared at the Bialoleka camp alone. (Internees, as distinct from prisoners awaiting trial on specific charges, are allowed paper and various writing materials.)

### Threats to ban Solidarity

It is clear that the government and military hierarchy, four months after the imposition of martial law, have been unsuccessful in breaking Solidarity or in undermining the massive support for it.

As a result, the authorities are now threatening to ban Solidarity outright (at the moment it is officially "suspended").

These threats follow the formal dissolution in late March of the Polish Journalists Association, which has strongly supported Solidarity since late 1980.

These moves are a sign of the government's political isolation within the country.

One reason for this isolation is Poland's disastrous economic situation, caused by years of bureaucratic mismanagement.

This economic crisis, especially the severe food shortages, has heightened social tensions within the country. In one Solidarity bulletin, Bujak and Kulerski warned that the shortages and high prices could lead to "explosive outbursts."

A similar warning was hinted at in the Warsaw weekly *Polityka*, which is edited by Deputy Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski. It gave a detailed account of a "typical" Polish working-class family's monthly budget. In February, the family spent all their money on food and other essentials, eschewing entertainment, alcohol, or more expensive items like fruit juices. Even then their income was insufficient to meet their expenses, and they were able to get by only thanks to a wage bonus.

"What will happen in two to three months," *Polityka* asked, "when this bonus runs out?"

From Intercontinental Press



es an invasion of Lebanon by Israeli n completed," he said. "I'm preparing

# 'Grenada is symbol of a new reality'

## Prime Minister Bishop projects economic independence and internationalism

Grenada — a Caribbean island with a mostly Black English-speaking population of 110,000 — stands at the southernmost tip of the Lesser Antilles, off the coast of Venezuela. On March 13, 1979, the hated U.S.-backed dictator, Sir Eric Gairy, was overthrown by a popular uprising that opened up the first socialist revolution in a Black country in the Americas.

The following are excerpts from the speech given by Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at the rally held in St. George's, Grenada, March 13 to mark the third anniversary of the revolution. The text was taken from the March 20 issue of the Grenadian weekly *Free West Indian*.

Comrades, in the name of our party, our government and our people, I want to welcome you all and to welcome all our invited and overseas guests to this historic and massive third anniversary of our People's Revolution.

Today, three years have passed since our people's will and giant determination finished with tyranny and fear forever in our country, and these last three years have brought us many transformations, many massive changes.

In the old days — and now when we speak about the "old days" in Grenada we speak of just three years ago, because we have all matured that much — in the days of darkness that are gone forever, you would find Grenadians leaving their country in their thousands, emigrating by sea and by air to far-off shores to escape the deadend of Gairyism.

But our country today has become a symbol of a new reality to oppressed people. No longer are we a point of departure. Today we are a point of arrival for people from all over the world, who have come to celebrate with us our third anniversary of our glorious Revolution.

We are certainly proud of what we have achieved over these past three years, but we realise also that we are still on the threshold of the real changes that we want to see in our country. We have only taken the first steps, and we have no room in our process for complacency or premature satisfaction.

Our people, through their history, have always struggled and craved for real transformation, have organised, fought and died for real transformation, and there is no rest for us until we have built a new life in Grenada that will fulfill all the enormous potential of our people, for our people deserve nothing less.

All of this will of course depend on how quickly we can expand our economy and build the necessary wealth to construct a new life. For we are embarking upon our Year of Economic Construction at a time when the capitalist world which surrounds us, and with whom we trade, has created for itself a whirlpool of economic devastation which is today becoming an economic crisis of worldwide proportions.

Their crisis affects us like a leech, because we are still reliant upon them for exports and imports, and historically, we have been shackled to their economies through a 400-year imposition of colonialism and a quarter-century of neo-colonialism.

### Create economic self-reliance

Our success must, therefore, be measured in how much we can cut through the chains that have bound us to their system, how rapidly we can immunise our economy from their recessions, how quickly we can create our own economic self-reliance that will keep us strong, no matter what happens to the capitalist world.

For, of course, the terms of trade which are favourable to the industrialised countries are inevitably unfavour-

able to us — that is the great inequality upon which imperialism bases its power. They control the prices at which we sell our crops which have meant life or death for us: our bananas, our cocoa, our nutmegs. And they also control the prices of the goods we buy from them. So we are squeezed from both ends.

We are in a vise, and our only way out is real and concrete economic construction. We import their rising prices, we import their inflation, we import everything unhealthy about their economy, and it affects our economy like a cancer.

### Benefits of the revolution

Over the last year we have spoken much about the "social wage" and we have defined it as all those concrete benefits which you receive, but for which you don't have to find the money in your pockets to pay, or for which you pay only a small part of the real cost — those benefits of the Revolution:

- Free education,
- Free health care,
- Over 300 free university scholarships abroad,
- Our house-repair programme,
- Our new public transport system,
- Our free school books and uniforms for the poorest children,
- Our eye clinic,
- Our free milk programme,
- Our new housing schemes for our workers.

These are the benefits that go to make up our social wage.

What we have to make clear, however, is that the money to pay for all of these programmes has to come from someplace. Where will we find the money to maintain and expand on these programmes?

For maintain them we must, not only for the benefit of our own workers, but because they are an inspiration and a model to the working people the length and breadth of our Caribbean! Comrades, the money we need for these programmes and benefits is inside you!

It lies inside your muscle-power and your brain-power, and more than anything else, it lies inside your consciousness and commitment to "Work Harder, Produce More and Build Grenada" — for it is only with determination and resolution, and the greater production and wealth that it will bring, that there will be a guarantee of the continuation and expansion of all the concrete gains of our social wage.

### Infrastructure

The same truth rings just as clear in relation to our infrastructural development. For even before the Revolution, our New Jewel Movement (NJM) understood how economic development could only come with infrastructural development, that to create a Revolution meant necessarily to create a new infrastructure. And that is why we have it as a number one priority, a number one must, for our people and our country. And the fulfillment of this is beginning to sprout out all around us:

- Completion of the first phase of the Eastern Main Road this year and the beginning of construction of the Western Main Road;
- Development of our Central Water Commission, with a much-improved supply of water all over the nation;
- The new telephone system which we shall begin to install this year;
- The new generators we are negotiating to buy for our electricity company so as to bring an end to black-outs.
- The 67.5 miles of feeder roads that will open up our agriculture to further production this year;
- Our new radio transmitter;
- Our Ramon Quintana Quarry, stone-crusher and asphalt complex.
- The Sandino pre-fabricated concrete unit and block-making plant, which incidentally arrived on the St.

George's docks this morning, as yet another gift from our internationalist friends of Cuba;

- Continuation of our international airport and the start of the terminal building in the next few months;

- Construction of warehouses for our Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) in every parish — with vital implications for the expansion of our foreign trade and internal supplies.

- Construction of eight fish-selling centres with deep-freeze facilities and the planned dredging of the St. George's Harbour to accommodate larger ships for the advancement of tourism and trade.

It is clear that we would be much further back in our development process without this direct help of our sisters and brothers from many nations: from Cuba, from Iraq, from Algeria, from Syria, from Libya and from other countries in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), from Korea, from Tanzania and Nigeria, from Mexico and Venezuela, from Canada, from Kenya, from the European Economic Community (EEC) and from the socialist countries. All of this assistance has been very, very welcome and heartwarming to our people.

### Democracy

The three years of building the foundations of our Revolution have caused us to discover much about ourselves.

March 13, 1979, was crucial for us, in that when we seized that sunrise and dawned our own new day in Grenada, we were suddenly, for the first time in our lives, staring at our true selves, looking at a reflection of who we really were, understanding with additional revolutionary insight who we could become.

We began to see more and more clearly the massive potential of our people, and as we worked together to safeguard and consolidate our victory, our people's genius was set free and began to sparkle with brilliance. For as we began, as a people, to confirm concretely that organisation was our greatest weapon, our conviction became doubly reinforced that it was only mass participation and revolutionary democracy that could genuinely move us forward. And that is why we steadfastly believe that our people constitute the first great and indispensable pillar of our Revolution.

As we lay to rest in Grenada the Westminster corpse, we recall with admiration the prophetic words, uttered over 60 years ago, by our great democrat and patriot, T. Albert Marryshow, that one day a great spirit of democracy would come to "level up and level down" in this Grenada of ours. How happy our T.A. would have been today to have lived to see the fulfillment of his prophesy, that democracy is "leveling up and leveling down" our country.

### Peace and progress

The urge and demand for world peace is so dominant that all other issues are dependent on it. The Grenada Revolution, all other revolutions, and progressive and democratic forces on earth cannot make progress, cannot move forward, cannot develop, cannot be independent, without peace. It is as simple, as fundamental as that.

Today, only a few minutes are needed for the world's arsenals of nuclear weapons to completely wipe from the face of this planet the totality of mankind's work.

As a revolutionary people, Grenadians are realists. We know that we have no other recourse, no other alternative but to fight this threat and resolutely mobilise ourselves in preparation to confront this threat. We are under no illusions at all that the responsibility, the real blame for the increase of international tension rests fully with Washing-

ton's attempt to seek world domination once more.

US President Ronald Reagan's policy of hostility, of economic and political aggression, of personal interference, of subversion, of counter-revolutionary propaganda, can never be grounds for the sober and constructive dialogue that the world needs at present.

Every day the arms race swallows up over \$1 billion, while every day over one billion men, women and children continue to suffer from hunger, from disease, from illiteracy and from underdevelopment.

The Grenadian people are convinced that peaceful co-existence and disarmament are the essential conditions for the development of a new system of international economic relations which guarantee the liberation of less-developed countries.

Two years ago, from this very platform, on our Revolution's first anniversary, we called for the Caribbean Sea to be regarded and respected as a zone of peace. Two years later, we still hold firm to that call.

Our view remains that military task forces, air and sea patrols, and all military manoeuvres by foreign powers in our region, must be outlawed once and for all.

### Remove military installations

We believe that military bases and installations must be removed from the territories of the Latin American and Caribbean countries that do not want them. The people of Grenada and the region demand the right to be free from aggressive military harassment. We demand an end to the Monroe Doctrine, the Reagan Doctrine, and all other doctrines aimed at perpetuating hegemonism, interventionism or backyardism in this region of ours.

The people of our region once again demand that their sacred right to self-determination be recognised and respected in practice. We want to see in practice that the people of this region are, in fact, allowed to build their own processes in their own way: free from all outside interference, free from all threats, free from all tic-tacks, free from all attempts to force them to build a process imposed from outside.

We are convinced that peace, independence and development are inextricably connected. Peace is an imperative pre-condition for orderly and progressive economic, social and cultural development of our people.

In addition, to be able to pursue social, economic and cultural policies which are necessary for its own peculiar developmental requirements, a country must be truly independent and not be subject to any form of outside pressure or dictation. This is an inalienable right of all peoples.

Two years ago, we said from this very platform that aid with political strings or unreasonable conditions, which bring about economic hardships on Caribbean peoples, or which consolidate and entrench the rule of the big US companies, must be condemned and avoided like a plague. Today, we are compelled to restate this view in relation to Reagan's version of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

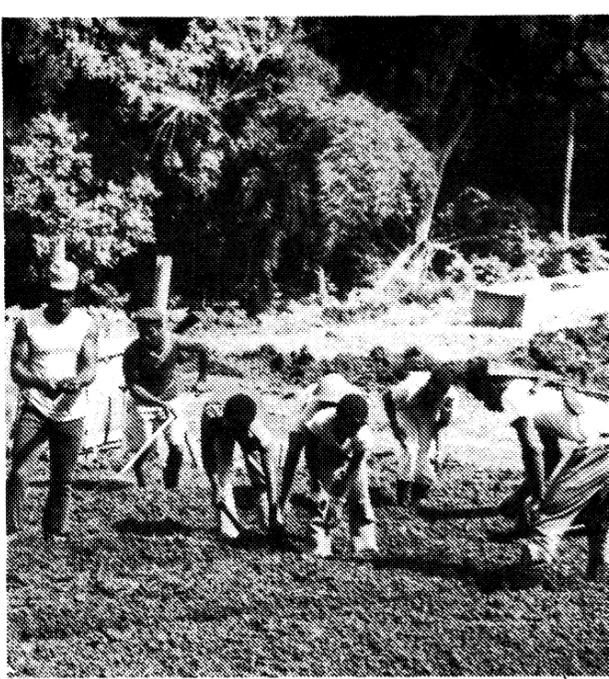
Any casual glance at this version of the Caribbean Basin plan would show that it is very different, indeed a prostitution of the original ideas discussed by Mexico, Canada, Venezuela and the USA in the Bahamas.

### Real aim of Caribbean basin plan

The Caribbean plan must pay special attention to the balance of payments and the need to remove the foreign exchange and other constraints to development, and to provide: the infrastructural, technological, institutional, skilled and managerial capability require-



Intercontinental Press/Pat Kane



Free West Indian/Kevin Williams

**Bishop (right) at January 21 rally commemorating victims of Gairy dictatorship. Government is emphasizing development of agriculture to utilize land and resources of Grenada.**

ments of the production and marketing processes in industry, agro-industry, agriculture, transportation, communication links and energy. And it should also assist in promoting the diversification of production in the Caribbean countries.

What is now clearer is that [Reagan's] plan is meant only to deal with narrow military, security and strategic considerations of the USA, and is not genuinely concerned with economic and social development of the people of this region.

Where is the proof? It is contained in Reagan's speech to the Organisation of American States (OAS) on February 24.

"The Caribbean region is a vital strategic and commercial artery for the United States. Nearly half of our trade, two-thirds of our imported oil, and over half of our imported strategic minerals pass through the Panama Canal or the Gulf of Mexico. Make no mistake: the well-being and security of our neighbors in this region are in our own vital interest."

And this sort of justification is repeated more than once in the speech.

We are not surprised, because this has always been the USA's approach, and with Reagan in power, this narrow nationalist approach will not only continue, but will become much more emphasised.

We recall John Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" plan was \$20 billion, or 57 times more money than what is now proposed for the CBI. And who can forget how dramatically that grandiose Alliance for Progress collapsed?

They speak of \$350 million, but \$350 million is equivalent to the profits of a big US company working for only three days of year-round profits.

How shameful it is to reflect that the present military manoeuvre, announced at the same time as this CBI, costs more than the whole CBI plan.

### Reagan's hypocrisy

Reagan says his plan will bring stability to the region. That is only hypocritical nonsense, because what is clear is that Reagan's bilateral aid approach is certainly designed to destroy regional unity.

What is also clear is that the plan will also crush local private investors in the region, while promoting and expanding the role of big US companies. There is no doubt that it is the new strategy of colonisation.

The CBI plan reflects the chauvinism and Ugly Americanism of Reagan, in the vulgar way in which he has completely ignored and discarded the views of Caribbean countries, as to what kind of plan they wished to see.

The concern of his plan is with his warmongering "national security" interests.

The bulk of the CBI is nothing more than money and arms for fascist dictatorships and oligarchies as represented by El Salvador. And giving money to El Salvador today is like sinking money into a hole or flushing it down a toilet.

Such money might as well be saved for the massive job of national reconstruction, which patriots of El Salvador in the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) will have to undertake after their certain victory.

On top of this insult, indignity, charade, masquerade and pappy-show represented by the CBI, Reagan's speech to the OAS also contains vulgar attacks on Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and the fighting people of El Salvador.

Reagan attacks Nicaragua, he attacks Cuba, he attacks Grenada, he attacks the ordinary working people of El Salvador, who have picked up arms to regain their country from genocidal oppression and imperialist plunder.

### Reagan's desperation

But he does so out of desperation, out of the recognition that the people of the region now understand very clearly that there is an alternative to fascism, to 19th century capitalism and dictatorship.

That alternative was shown in the glorious Cuban Revolution and continued with the Grenadian and Nicaraguan Revolutions. Reagan attacks our countries because he understands very well that neither his words, nor his belligerent actions and threats, will stop the heroic people of Cuba from continuing to go forward with their mighty Revolution — a beacon, a model of hope, an example of dignity and struggle for the people of the region and of the world to emulate. Reagan understands the power and the impact of the Cuban Revolution.

He attacks Nicaragua today, understanding very well that neither the November plan of CIA terrorism against Nicaragua, nor the economic warfare and complicity with mercenaries, will ever be able to turn back this glorious people's Revolution, or stop the ordinary poor and working people of Central America from longing to be noble Sandinista fighters themselves.

And what can we say of Reagan's hypocritical call for elections in El Salvador?

In 1932 over 30,000 Salvadoran patriots were murdered by the then-dictatorship. In the past two years, another 30,000 patriots have been murdered by Duarte's butchers with the fullest financial military and diplomatic backing from the USA. A state of martial law, a state of siege, exists in El Salvador today. What kind of elections could there be in such a state?

### Political solution

Today, we want to repeat once again our fullest support for the Mexican-French Declaration calling for a negotiated political solution and for the recognition of the FMLN and the FDR as authentic representative forces.

Today, we also want to repeat our fullest support for the recent statesmanlike offer of Mexican President José López Portillo to act as an intermediary

in the Central American situation. We applaud President López Portillo for his statesmanship.

We applaud today, too, the speedy and statesmanlike response of Cuban President Fidel Castro and the Sandinista leadership in accepting this offer and stating their readiness to assist in ensuring a just and negotiated solution to the problems of the region.

Now we wait on Reagan for a serious response. But whether or not the Reagan administration chooses to wake up to the realities of the region; whether or not they choose to come in line with these realities, one thing is certain: the children of José Martí, of Camillo, of Che, of Fidel; the children of Sandino likewise, will continue to write brilliant page after brilliant page in the history of the Caribbean and Latin American region.

Equally certain is the fact that the children of Farabundo Martí will one day soon join the children of José Martí, the children of Sandino, and the children of Fedon, Butler, Marrayshow, Rupert Bishop, Harold Strachan and Allister Strachan in liberating their own territory, and starting on the road to people's power in their own countries. That is certain.

### North Korea

Today, we also have to recognise the tremendous work and the great job of nation-building that is being undertaken by a country far away in Asia.

In the presence of the Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and his delegation, we in Grenada pledge to continue to give our fullest support to your just struggles for re-unifying your country and making once again, one Korea, one people.

Today, we know our comrades in the DPRK are still facing threats from manoeuvres right now taking place on their soil and in their region. We want to say to them that they also have our fullest solidarity in their struggle to end those hostile manoeuvres in their fight to have all US soldiers removed from Korean soil.

Coming from almost as far away, from a chain of islands near Africa, with a brave, fighting and heroic people, who had their own revolution a few years ago, and whose President is a very good friend of Grenada, the foreign minister of Seychelles has travelled a long, long distance to be with us here today.

The Seychelles late last year faced a mercenary attack organised and financed by South Africa, with the full backing of the USA. But these brave people, on discovering those mercenaries in their land, with their AK [automatic rifle] in their hand, they drove them off. The South Africans were made to flee as puppy dogs, with their tails between their legs — well beaten.

These comrades have done what our own people in Grenada will do, if any mercenary or outside aggressive force chooses to land on our soil.

We also have here with us our friends

from Southern Africa, from Namibia, a country that today continues to be denied its independence because South Africa has decided that they should not be independent. The Reagan administration in the US has been the main force pushing to ensure that the timetable and plan for independence in Namibia are made so difficult, so full of ridiculous clauses and conditions that the elections are bound to be a farce.

We, therefore, expect that the people of Namibia, under their authentic leadership, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), will continue to fight with arms in hand to win their freedom and their dignity. We again pledge our fullest support and solidarity with the people of Namibia.

We also pledge, on this platform today, our continuing and fullest support for our sisters and brothers in Angola, for our sisters and brothers in the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa and for all of the frontline states that are today facing daily pressure from the South African military. To all our friends in Southern Africa, who are today still fighting for national liberation or to consolidate their hard-won independence, the people of Grenada today send their warmest greetings and salutations.

And, we also recognise today the struggles of the people of Libya; the struggles of the people of Iraq, who had their nuclear reactor blown up by Israel last year; Syria and Lebanon; of the Western Sahara; and the people of Palestine, who are today continuing to struggle for their homeland. Today, we think of the vicious and wicked annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel, we think of the daily attacks on Lebanon and Syria by the Israelis. Today, we once again send our warmest and firmest handshake to all our friends in the Arab world and particularly to the people of Palestine, who must one day have their homeland returned.

And, today, I also want to ask you especially to remember a very brave people who have hit out against local reaction and imperialism, a people who only two days ago had to fight against these forces inside their own country. We want to remember a country [Suriname] that only two days ago was subjected to yet another attack on its process, yet another counter-revolutionary attempt to roll back the new life that is being built for its people.

On the same day that fighting broke out two days ago, we publicly expressed our solidarity to the leadership and the people of that country.

For your presence here this afternoon, comrades and friends from throughout the nations of the world, proves to us that we are an integral and individual part of the mainland of the world's people, and that the seas that surround our country can be bridged and leapt over by anyone who wishes to share our process; anyone who wants to see for themselves the freedom we are making; anyone who has the independence of mind and spirit not to be fooled by the imperialist media-monsters and press-potentates who spread their lies throughout the world about our Revolution.

We also ask you to take the truth of our Revolution back to your homeland, for the truth itself is revolutionary and we are confident that it cannot harm us. It is in itself our comrade. It is also the enemy of our enemies and the greatest weapon we have. Our detractors and vilifiers have neutron bombs and wage chemical warfare. We hold the truth of our process out towards them: our free health, our free education, our free school books and uniforms, our free milk, our national bus service, our international airport, our clinics, our fishing fleet and saltfish plant, our agro-industries, our house-repair programme, our Centres for Popular Education. These are the great truths of the Grenada Revolution.



Militant/Walter Lippmann  
**DeAnn Rathbun, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress from Pennsylvania.**

# Socialist candidate addresses miners political action body

The Coal Miners Political Action Committee (COMPAC) in western Pennsylvania's District 5 recently interviewed a number of candidates for office in the 1982 elections. One of those interviewed was DeAnn Rathbun, a member of the United Mine Workers Local 1190 and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania's 22nd Congressional District.

COMPAC is the political arm of the UMWA.

"One of the biggest challenges confronting our union and the entire labor movement today," Rathbun told COMPAC March 26, "is to start charting a course of political action that is independent of the Democratic and Republican parties — in short, to begin the formation of a labor party based on our

unions.

"The problems we face in 1982 are immense," she continued. "First and foremost is the threat of a new Vietnam-style war in Central America. Active preparations are in the works by our government to send our youth — young workers, farmers, and young men who cannot find decent jobs — to war in Central America.

"Washington's preparations for war abroad go hand in hand with a war on working people here at home. Unemployment nationally is officially headed toward 10 percent. Here in Pennsylvania it is already close to 12 percent.

"We are confronted with an epidemic of plant closings: National Steel in Weirton, Crucible in Midland, and the threats at Wheeling-Pittsburgh at Al-

lenport. U.S. Steel has thrown 1,000 miners out of work.

"And for those of us lucky enough to keep our jobs, we have short workweeks, pay cuts, and speedup.

"The war budget is consuming billions of dollars — money taken directly from vital social services. The budget cuts jeopardize everything labor has fought for more than 40 years. We all know too well the consequences of the cuts in programs like Black Lung Benefits and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

"Small farmers are being driven to the brink of bankruptcy. The gains won by Blacks are under attack — even the right to vote! And the same goes for the rights that women have won.

"Add to all this the destruction of the environment and their callous disregard for human life — that's the problem that nuclear power spells for working people.

"We have graphic proof of that less than 30 miles from here in Canonsburg, where tons of radioactive waste left over from the Manhattan Project are now causing terminal cancer in high school students.

"It turns out that the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima was dropped on Canonsburg too.

"A labor party," said Rathbun, "could fight for and bring into being a workers and farmers government." Such a government would:

- End U.S. military intervention in Central America, and pursue a foreign policy of peace and solidarity with workers and farmers around the world.

- Create jobs by enacting a shorter workweek with no cut in pay.

- Begin a massive public works program — libraries, hospitals, schools. "The money for it is there," she said. "Just eliminate the war budget."

- Automatically raise wages, Social Security, pensions, and other benefits as prices rise.

- Offer free medical care.

- Get rid of nuclear weapons, shut down nuclear power plants, then produce electricity by mining and burning more coal.

- Stop plant shutdowns and layoffs. Any corporation resisting this would be nationalized and placed under the management of publicly elected boards, with production under the control of the workers.

- Eradicate race and sex discrimination.

- "This is a realistic perspective for our time," she concluded. "Organized labor can take the first step along this road by beginning the formation of an independent labor party.

"It doesn't have to wait. A single local of a union could get the ball rolling by running a candidate for office and challenging the ruinous policies of the Democratic and Republican parties.

"Such a step — even if taken by only one local — would be watched by working people around the country and could provide an inspiring example for even bigger political undertakings."

## Pennsylvanians sue U.S. government over dumping of radioactive debris

BY KATHERINE SOJOURNER

CANONSBURG, Pa. — In what may be the first class action suit seeking relief under the Uranium Mill Tailings Act, over 40 area residents and businesses filed complaints on March 19 in the U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh. The 11,000-member community of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, located 22 miles from Pittsburgh, has been the victim for several decades of a terrible criminal negligence.

The Canonsburg Industrial Park contains about 500,000 tons of radioactive debris. An estimated 8,000 people live within a mile of the park.

In the 1940s, Vitro Rare Metals Co. produced radioactive materials here for the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bombs. The people who live here were kept completely in the dark for over 30 years. Many thought Vitro was a chemical works.

In the 1970s scientists found radon gas seeping out of industrial park buildings, and high radiation levels also were found along roadways and in the lagoon where Vitro had buried the tons of radioactive material before turning the land over to private developers in 1965.

The production of radium produced iridescent puddles in the streets, reddish

gunk poured onto the land, green substances flowed into a creek, and pollution poured into the air.

In 1977 the dump was identified as the number 1 radioactive cleanup project in the country. The federal government has been responsible for a cleanup program since 1977, but so far, not a shovelful of contaminated dirt has been touched.

The problem is not one that can be waited on.

Payne Place is a small street populated mainly by Blacks. Their homes are separated by a small cemetery from the 18-acre contaminated industrial park.

A survey conducted the first week in March by the *Pittsburgh Press* confirmed that at least 37 residents in the 16-house neighborhood of Payne Place have died from cancer. Three others currently have cancer, and another has a usually fatal skin disease.

Strabane Avenue also has grave health problems. Thirteen cancer deaths have occurred in 11 houses. Another suffers from cancer of the pancreas, liver, and bones, and one has a rare form of leukemia.

According to the March 7 *Pittsburgh Press*, "The people pinpoint radiation as a cause, as if it were a common fact along Payne Place. . . ."

"Longtime residents spoke openly about the haunt and curse of cancer, the disease that 'takes you right out of this world.' Whole families are affected by the disease; the cancers haven't discriminated between family, sex or race."

As many as nine members of the Canon-McMillan's High School class of 1979 had cancer; two have died. Teenagers normally experience about 26 cases of cancer in every 100,000. The class of 1979 had 385 members.

Tremendous distrust of the government and years of inactivity on the cleanup prompted the filing of the class action suit. Among other things, the complaints request: that the government clean up the site; that the government move the radioactive material to a western state for stabilization; and that the court order more extensive and comprehensive public participation, through government-funded independent research studies into the level of radiation and its effects.

*Katherine Sojourner is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania. She is a resident of Harrisburg, an activist in the antinuclear movement, and a member of the United Steelworkers of America, Local 1688.*

## UMWA challengers hold rallies

Continued from Page 20

"Church voted three times to take the card away," Trumka charged, calling the card "the greatest thing that [former UMWA President John L.] Lewis gave this union."

Trumka went on to criticize the Church leadership for failing to fight aggressively against new federal restrictions on eligibility for black lung benefits.

Banovic also spoke at the rally, as did Don Redman, District 5 president, and Jim Kelly, president of District 4.

Miners and their families crowded into the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge in Cokesburg, but the rally soon spilled over into the Sons of Italy Hall two doors away.

Local media estimated that a thousand miners and their families participated in all or part of the rally. The day's events began at noon and went on late in the evening.

The Croatian Lodge was abuzz with discussion as miners, young and old, socialized and met the candidates. Among those attending were district and local officers and rank-and-file miners from Districts 4 and 5.

Some miners drove up to 100 miles; they came from as far south as Kirby and as far north as Russelton. Women miners were present from both districts.

Campaign funds were raised by selling buttons, hats, tee shirts, and homemade baked goods.

As the afternoon went on, miners from each district took part in organizational meetings, which mapped out plans to involve rank and filers at each mine. A big fundraising event was announced for April 25 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Following the rally, miners returned to lamb and kielbassa sandwiches, and danced to local bands — which included miner-musicians — and continued informal discussions.

A recurring topic was the UMWA's ability to organize non-union miners and how to fight back against the employers' and government's attacks on the union.

Concern is growing among miners on these issues, especially with the Reagan administration's cutbacks, massive layoffs and plant closings in auto and steel, and the threat of war in Central America.

What strategy the UMWA needs to fight back effectively is bound to be discussed widely among miners during the election campaign.

### Pa. ballot drive

BY DON DAVIS

PHILADELPHIA — More than 7,400 signatures were collected April 17 as Pennsylvania socialists opened their campaign to put a slate of candidates on the ballot.

The day's goal had been 5,000. The Socialist Workers Party is aiming to collect far more than the required 23,407 signatures to put statewide candidates on the ballot.

Petitioners found widespread support for the socialists' stands against Reagan's budget cutbacks and war threats.

This attitude was summed up by a story related by one petitioner, Chris Davis. After he explained to one man what the socialist campaign stood for, there was the following dialogue.

"Just tell me one thing, are you against the Democrats and Republicans?"

"Of course we are."

"Give me that board."

An older woman told petitioner Joe Walters, "My Democratic committeeman asked me who I'm voting for. I said I'm voting socialist. He said, 'you can't do that, you're a registered Democrat.'"

"I said, how dumb does he think I am?"

**PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg Statewide Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California; Mark Zola, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania; Katherine Sojourner, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor; Cathy Eminentzer, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., May 15, reception 6 p.m., rally 7 p.m. Party to follow. United Steelworkers Hall, 1024 Herr St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Pennsylvania SWP 1982 Campaign. For more information call (717) 234-5052.

# Nicaragua denounces commander's betrayal

Continued from Page 20

logistical work for Sandinista guerrilla operations.

In 1967 he was imprisoned. After his release he worked with peasants in two central provinces, Matagalpa and Jinotega.

He lived in exile until he returned as "Commander Zero" in charge of the famous August 22, 1978, attack on the National Palace, through which many imprisoned Sandinista leaders were freed. During the final offensive he became the military commander of the Southern Front.

After the revolution Pastora was assigned to be vice-minister of defense and was placed in charge of the Sandinista People's Militias.

Indeed, Pastora was very popular.

Like most Nicaraguans, he opposed Somoza and was willing to risk his life to rid Nicaragua of the tyrant.

But he could not accept that getting rid of Somoza also meant getting rid of a whole system of rule propped up by the United States for more than a century, which denied peasants access to the land they worked and kept the vast majority of the population submerged in illiteracy, hunger, disease, and other ills. These social evils exist throughout Latin America — except in Cuba. They cannot be eliminated without challenging the capitalist system.

Pastora, a businessman who comes from a landowning family, was not willing to break with his class and go all the way with the revolutionary process. He has now become its open enemy.

The timing of Pastora's betrayal was ideal from the imperialist point of view. By attacking the victim instead of the criminal, he helped shift world attention away from the latest escalation of U.S. military threats — the stationing of four warships armed with guided missiles off the Nicaraguan coast.

And by intervening after the exposure of U.S. lies by the young Nicaraguan fighter Orlando Tardencilla, and after the Nicaraguan diplomatic victory in the United Nations that forced Washington to offer peace negotiations, Pastora gave the imperialist diplomats the pretext they were looking for to shelve the talks before they could even start.

The *Washington Post* reported April 16 that Reagan had been looking for some time for a leader who could "crystallize" alleged "discontent growing in Nicaragua," and "Pastora would seem to fit the bill."

U.S. imperialism made immediate use of its new ally.

"It is undeniable," a representative of the State Department told Agence France-Presse, "that the administration now holds a stronger negotiating position. . . ."

"We are no longer alone," he said, "because now we have a guerrilla commander, above suspicion of being an American agent, who is saying the same thing we have been saying for three months: Nicaragua is becoming a pawn of Cuba and the Soviet Union, repressing freedom, trampling on human rights, and choking off private enterprise."

In statements issued April 16, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG), and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador all blasted Pastora's betrayal of the struggle he formerly supported.

The FSLN National Directorate declared his action "one more element in the campaign of aggression, destabilization, and threats the current U.S. government has mounted against our revolution."

Imperialism's aim, the nine top leaders of the revolution said, is to use Pastora's former reputation "to create divisions . . . thereby facilitating armed aggression against the revolution and its conquests."

Pastora "has declared a war that cannot be carried out without support from imperialism, that cannot be fought

without the mercenaries and the Somozaist bands waiting on the other side of the border for an order to attack."

The Sandinista leadership also revealed facts about Pastora that had previously not been made public.

When he left Nicaragua last year, allegedly to join the revolutionaries fighting in Guatemala, every effort was made to maintain friendly relations with him, "despite increasingly disturbing reports we received about the type of persons of dubious moral standing, and forces hostile to the Nicaraguan people and our revolution that he was increasingly surrounding himself with."

"We must accept that our efforts failed," the FSLN concluded.

The URNG, a coalition of the four main revolutionary organizations in Guatemala, explained Pastora's real role in the struggle there.

Pastora's request to join the revolutionary fighters was viewed favorably at first, the URNG said, "but his supposed internationalist commitment never materialized, as he continually refused to actually join our struggle in the countryside."

"Instead, over a period of 10 months, he demonstrated a surprising immaturity, ideological and political inconsistency, and a profound lack of revolutionary commitment."

Apart from the reasons that kept Pastora himself from seeking to join the struggle, the URNG concluded, "our organization decided to break off all connections with him because he insisted on maintaining relations with individuals and forces linked to the counterrevolution in our region."

Commander Ana María of El Salvador's FMLN issued a statement expressing confidence that Pastora's betrayal would in no way undermine the Nicaraguan revolution.

"When a leader betrays his people," she said, "and goes before television cameras and reporters to declare his treason, this does not divide the revolution from the people, but instead earns the traitor the hatred of those who formerly believed in him."

Her words were borne out as militia members throughout the country began turning in their militia cards, which still bear Pastora's signature. In a demonstration in downtown Managua April 17, hundreds of militia members showed their support for the government by burning their old membership cards.

## Miners fight company 'bankruptcy' ploy

BY MOLLY SHAW

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Last month, 3,500 coal miners in District 17 honored roving pickets from the Black Pearl mine, owned by Coal Management Services (CMS).

At issue were hundreds of thousands of dollars stolen from miners by a bankruptcy ploy that is, unfortunately, familiar to thousands of miners who have been its victims.

In February Black Pearl miners were told there was "no more work." There had been rumors that CMS would declare Black Pearl bankrupt.

The company began removing equipment from the mine. Laid-off miners picketed the site, demanding that the equipment be sold to pay them the thousands owed by CMS in wages and benefits.

On February 23 and on March 8, CMS filed for bankruptcy in Charleston for four of its operations, including Black Pearl. By late March, a month after the layoff, the miners had received nothing.

The response to a March 22 roving picket was a three-day show of support by thousands of Boone and Raleigh county miners.

Shutdowns of mines belonging to Armco Steel, Carbon Fuel, and Cedar Coal have drawn attention to the bankruptcy swindle.

There have been investigations of



Militant/Jane Harris

Pastora attacked land reform program in his news conference. Above, peasants gather under banner calling for land to be collective property for benefit of society.

"We don't want a militia card signed by a traitor!" they chanted.

The day before, leaders of the FSLN, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the Rural Workers Association (ATC), and Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS) fanned out across the country, holding mass meetings in factories, villages, and fields, to discuss and denounce Pastora's betrayal.

Reports of these meetings in *Barricada* indicated scattered instances in which local reactionaries had tried to take advantage of Pastora's statement. But it summed up the general conclusion by Nicaraguans as "Kirkpatrick [the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations], Reagan, Pastora . . . all the same."

The leaders of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie, apparently waiting to see which way the wind would blow, made themselves hard to find and generally declined to issue any statement whatever about Pastora. Alfonso Robelo, the main leader of the capitalist opposition, could not be reached for comment because he was in Washington meeting with the State Department.

The reaction to Pastora's comments is not surprising. It is widely understood in Nicaragua, ATC General Secretary Edgardo García pointed out, that Pastora's "attacks on the National Directo-

rate are really aimed against the workers, because we are the ones who have been demanding the land confiscations, and we are the ones who have been denouncing the bosses who decapitalize and support the counterrevolutionary bands."

Perhaps the most welcome response to Pastora's betrayal came from Commander Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform. The day following Pastora's press conference, Wheelock announced that 28,000 more manzanas of land (1 manzana = 1.73 acres) would be distributed to peasants around the country, as the revolution continued to fulfill the pledge that "no campesino will be left without land."

The revolutionary government has expropriated more than 100,000 manzanas of land so far. The latest expropriations will benefit more than 1,200 landless peasant families.

While Edén Pastora opens shop in Costa Rica, while Robelo meets with the State Department, while four U.S. destroyers station themselves in the Atlantic, the Nicaraguan people once again are sending the message to Washington that as far as their revolution is concerned, they are not about to turn back.

From Intercontinental Press

these schemes, which have proliferated over the past few years.

Small, fly-by-night companies mine coal with leased equipment and land and a few workers, hoping for quick profits, often at exploratory "punch hole" mines.

Behind them stand larger, richer operators, who use a network of loans, leases, and subcontracts to make money without risk. When the small firms cease to make money, the operators use claims of bankruptcy to skim the profits off the top, shut down, and run.

Miners are left with no job, lost wages, and bills to pay.

The bankruptcy ploy has another appeal to the coal operators. After bankruptcy, many mines are "conveniently" bought by nonunion companies. At least three CMS mines were leased from United Coal of Bristol, Virginia, which claims it is the largest nonunion coal operation in the country.

There are other union-busting ploys. According to Cecil Roberts, vice-president of United Mine Workers of America District 17, "The first mine [the CMS president] opened up worked nonunion, and it was some time before he signed a contract. Then, after he did, he closed it down and opened it up under another name."

Under UMWA and other pressure, the West Virginia state legislature in

1981 passed a law requiring mining and mining-related companies that have been in business for less than five years to post a bond of four weeks' wages and benefits.

Also, the state supreme court has ruled that parent contractors can be held liable for defaults by subcontractors.

These legal measures are intended to protect workers from such outfits as CMS, and they were important victories. But their actual effect has been limited.

Thousands of West Virginia companies remain unbonded. State labor commission officials cite red tape and a myriad of enforcement difficulties as the problem.

Coal miners are not accepting these excuses. The UMWA has filed one suit against the state labor commissioner for failure to enforce the law. The union continues to pressure the state for reimbursement of laid-off miners.

Miners have a long history of fighting for laws to help them get a safer, healthier workplace and a decent standard of living. They have paid for lax enforcement of these laws with their lives. The show of solidarity with Black Pearl miners shows they will not stand by idly while criminal coal operators cut their losses by robbing coal miners.

Everything's relative — Haig has always been the voice of rationality within the admin-



Harry Ring

istration" — A West European diplomat cited in a news story.

Popularity poll — The latest

in D.C. bumper stickers: "Starve one for the Gipper."

**Sip a Lucky** — Senator Jesse Helms of tobacco-producing North Carolina takes a dim view of such things as food stamps. But he wants the government to study extracting liquid protein from tobacco which, he suggests, could be distributed to the needy.

**Wattahell, we can afford it** — Including planes, helicopters, communications installations, special fire-fighting equipment

and a standby hospital ship, the president's recent Caribbean vacation will cost a tad over \$3 million.

**Virtue its own reward** — In *Bank Dick*, W.C. Fields recovers and turns in stolen bank money. He's proffered "a hearty handshake and a copy of the bank calendar." On Wall street recently, a bank cashier found an envelope on the street containing \$37.1 million in securities payable to the bearer. He turned them in. The company was so grateful it gave him \$250.

**That was a close one** — The Supreme Court ruled politicians have the right to make promises they can't keep. Presumably that also includes those they don't intend to.

**Mixed blessing** — Religious goods stores report that as expected in hard times their business is picking up. But one proprietor adds: "Things are bad enough out there that people are shoplifting our Madonnas."

**Cloak-and-ruler** — "A behavior test that was used in

World War II to identify potentially successful military intelligence personnel is now being used to screen candidates for jobs as school principals and assistant school principals." — News item.

**Spousal road to equality** — Reagan has appointed the wives of five congressmembers to federal jobs. "We are always on the lookout for qualified women," an aide explained. "Of course, it's sometimes easier to find them if they are somebody's wife."

## CALENDAR

### MIDWEST

#### Chicago

**An Evening in Solidarity with the Peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and the Freedom Fighters of Central America and the Caribbean.** Speakers: Victor Rubio, El Salvador Revolutionary Democratic Front; Vernon Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; representative, Grenada Revolutionary League; representative, Palestine Liberation Organization; Larry Seigle, national committee, Socialist Workers Party; representative, Casa Nicaragua; others. Ballads by Walter Urroz. Comité de Reconstrucción Ayuda al Pueblo de Nicaragua. Traducción en español. Sat., May 1, 7:30 p.m., social hour 6:30. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 4840 S. Dorchester. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Chicago-Gary Young Socialist Alliance. For more information and transportation call Midwest SWP branches and YSA chapters listed on page 17.

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

**British Hands Off Malvinas Islands!** Speakers: Curt Johnson, Socialist Workers Party; others. Traducción al español. Sat., April 24, 7:30 p.m. 613 E Indian School. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (602) 274-7399.

#### May Day Slide Show on Nicaragua.

Speakers: Mike Downs and Pat Nixon, Socialist Workers Party members recently returned from Nicaragua. Traducción al español. Sat., May 1, 7:30 p.m. 613 E Indian School. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (602) 274-7399.

#### Tucson

**Rally May 1: U.S. Hands Off Central America!** Speakers: George Black, author of *Triumph of the People*, dealing with Nicaraguan revolution; Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, member of American Indian Movement fact-finding team to Nicaragua; William Ford, brother of slain Maryknoll missionary Ita Ford; Rev. John Fife, Salvadoran refugee relief organizer. Sat., May 1, 12 noon. Reid Park Bandshell. Ausp: Committee for Non-Intervention. For more information call (602) 622-4362.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment.** Speakers: William Wimpinger, president, International Association of Machinists; Chuck Sheehan, president, Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization Local 578; Jerry Gordon, chair, Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment, former chair, National Peace Action Coalition; Tony Russo, copublisher, *Pentagon Papers*; leaders of Mexican nuclear and electrical workers unions. Workshops, slide shows, and music. Sat., May 8, beginning 8:30 a.m. Holman Methodist Church, 3320 W Adams Blvd. Ausp: Southern California Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment. For more information call (213) 935-4228.

#### Northern California

**Gala May Day Picnic.** Swimming, sports,

contests, lots of food and fun. Sun., May 2, 11 a.m. Camp Padre picnic grounds, Tilden Regional Park District (just 10 minutes from downtown Berkeley). Ausp: Mel Mason for Governor Campaign Committee. For more information call Oakland (415) 763-3792; San Francisco (415) 282-6255; San Jose (408) 998-4007.

#### San Diego

**Mel Mason for Governor Campaign Rally.** Speaker: Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor. Sun., April 25, 4 p.m. 1053 15th St. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (714) 234-4630.

### COLORADO

#### Denver

**An Evening for Solidarnosc.** Speakers: Daniel Singer, author of *Road to Gdansk*; Ralph Shoenman, American Workers and Artists for Solidarity; representatives from Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Socialist Workers Party; others. Tues., April 27, 7 p.m. Mountview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Poland Week Committee and American Workers and Artists for Solidarity. For more information call (303) 534-8330 or 744-8258.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Socialist Campaign Rally: No More Vietnams, No More Hiroshimas.** Speakers to be announced. Sun., May 2, 5 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. rally. 1st Unitarian Parish House, Charles and Hamilton Sts. Donation: \$2 rally, \$6 rally and dinner. Ausp: Maryland Socialist Workers '82 Campaign. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Busing, Desegregation and Bilingual Education: How to Defend Black and Latino Rights.** Speakers: Valerie Eckart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for 9th Congressional District; Timo Philip, Black Caucus, Boston Teachers Union; Felix Arroyo. Sun., April 25, 7:30 p.m. Harriet Tubman House,

### New York

#### Vietnam Festival

Hear: Speaker from Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Morton Sobell; Don Luce; member of Association of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S.; member of Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos  
Film: *Ecocide*  
Music and Vietnamese Food

Friday, May 7, 6-9:30 p.m.  
United Nations Church Center, 777 UN Plaza (44th St. and First Ave)

Sponsors: Association of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S.; Clergy and Laity Concerned; Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos; Southeast Asia Resource Center

Co-sponsors: American Indian Movement; Citizen Soldier; Harlem Fightback; People's Antiwar Mobilization; U.S. Peace Council; Socialist Workers Party; Youth Against War and Fascism; Women Activists for Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos; War Resisters League; Steve Clark, editor, *Intercontinental Press*

566 Columbus Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

**Open House: Meet the Candidates of the Socialist Workers Party.** Speakers: Andrew Pulley, 1980 SWP presidential candidate; Valerie Eckart, SWP candidate for 9th Congressional District. Refreshments, live music. Sun., May 2, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. St. Stephen's Church, 419 Shuwwmut Ave. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MINNESOTA

#### Twin Cities

**Schools Closing: An Attack on Desegregation and Public Education.** Speakers: Maggie Perrier, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sun., April 25, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. St. Paul. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Twin Cities Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### MISSOURI

#### St. Louis

**The Fraud of Workfare: An Attack on All Working People.** Speakers: Katib Wahib, Coalition for Sensible and Humane Solutions; Eddie Mae Binnion, South Side Welfare Rights Organization; Jody Curran, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., April 25, 7:30 p.m. 6223 Delmar (near Skinker). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 725-1570.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Israel and the Arab Revolution.** Speakers: Priscilla Schenk, Socialist Workers Party; others. Fri., April 30, 7:30 p.m. 11-A Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 643-3341.

### NEW MEXICO

#### Albuquerque

**Women in Cuba Today.** Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor, *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 1, 8 p.m. 1417 Centro NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

#### Marx and Engels's View of 1948 Revolution.

Two classes by Elizabeth Stone. Sun., May 2, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. 1417 Centro NE. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

### NEW YORK

#### New York City

**A Fisherman from Vieques Reports on the Struggle Against the U.S. Navy.** Speaker: Severino Ventura Cintrón. Also: performance by Grupo Bambulé, Puerto Rican folkloric dance group; and the film *La Caminata*. Fri., April 30, 7:30 p.m. Teatro Cuatro, 175 E 104th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: New York Committee in Support of Vieques.

#### Albany

**Why Working People Should Run the Government: Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Patricia Mayberry, Socialist Workers candidate for 28th Congressional District; Odell Winfield, member, National Black Independent Political Party; Diane Wang, SWP candidate for governor; Vera Michelson, member, Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. Sat., April 24, 8 p.m. Best Western Inn Towne, 300 Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Mayberry for Congress '82 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**The Case of the Legless Veteran.** A film by Howard Petrick. Benefit showing for Political Rights Defense Fund. Sun., April 25, 7 p.m. St. John's Unitarian Church, 320 Resor Ave. Donation: \$5. Ausp: PRDF. For more information call (513) 751-2636 or (513) 542-0191.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**Stop Reagan's Attack on Undocumented Workers and Political Refugees.** Speakers: Manuel Barerra, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Vietnam Yesterday and Today.** Speakers: Fred Feldman, Socialist Workers Party National Committee; Katherine Sojourner, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor. Sat., April 24, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

#### Revolutionary Cuba and Grenada: First-Hand Reports.

Speakers: Nan Bailey, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee, attended Grenada National Youth Council; others. Sat., May 1, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

### TEXAS

#### San Antonio

**How Workers Can Stop Reagan: Meet the Socialist Workers Party Candidates at an Open House.** Speakers: Norma Saldaña, U.S. Senate candidate; Steve Warshell, candidate for governor; Shirley Peña, candidate for 20th Congressional District. Wed., April 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 377 W Josephine St. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1982 Texas Campaign Committee. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Protests Rock Israeli Regime.** Speakers: Ahmad Dhaher, Palestinian professor of political science visiting University of Utah from University of Kuwait; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 8, 7 p.m. 677 S 700 E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Film Ten Days that Shook the World. Eisenstein's film on the Russian revolution.** Sun., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Nuclear Disarmament: A Question of Survival.** Speakers: Malik Edwards, D.C. Campaign for Nuclear Weapons Freeze; Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party; representatives from D.C. National Black United Front and D.C. National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., April 25, 4 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

# 'is freedom we making': democracy in Grenada

*'is freedom we making': The New Democracy in Grenada.* Edited by Merle Hodge and Chris Searle. Published by Government Information Service, Grenada. 92 pp., \$2.95.

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

At a luncheon with five eastern Caribbean heads of state, held in Barbados April 8, President Reagan declared that Grenada had joined with Cuba and Nicaragua to "spread the virus" of Marxism in the Caribbean. "I think all of us are concerned with the overturn of Westminster parliamentary democracy in Grenada," he said.

The nature of this "virus" and just what it is that Washington is concerned about in Grenada are de-

## BOOK REVIEW

scribed in *'is freedom we making': The New Democracy in Grenada*. Through interviews, articles, and pictures, Merle Hodge and Chris Searle show us a revolution that is transforming people's lives and the country as a whole.

For over 200 years British imperialism dominated Grenada, stifling economic and social advance and denying Grenadians any control over their lives. Then Britain granted "independence" to Grenada, leaving it the British parliamentary system, mass poverty, and dictator Eric Gairy.

But don't be confused. Reagan mourns none of this. It is the rejection of dictatorship and the development of people's democracy — through the March 1979

overthrow of Gairy — that has made Grenada subject to Washington's military threats and economic sabotage.

In the chapter "How Does a Democracy Grow?" Searle and Hodge, who are both volunteer teachers — one from Britain and the other from Trinidad — contrast Grenada today to before the revolution:

"Parliament used to be a barricaded building in town, York House, where 15 men from the better-off sections of society met once every Gairy's whim to hold debates and take decisions about the affairs of a nation of 110,000 people.

"Today in Grenada, Parliament has moved out of town and into . . . community centres, school buildings, street corners, market places, factories, farms and workplaces around the country.

"Every major programme launched by the Revolution," they point out, "is first taken to the people for discussion and feedback."

Their account of the August 1981 St. George's Workers Parish Council meeting is so vivid it makes you feel like you are at the meeting. It reports on the discussion of two major programs — the nationalization of electricity and adoption of a new Rent Restriction Act.

The advances of women and their important role in the revolution are summarized in the chapter, "Women, Step Forward!"

In the interviews that make up the second half of the pamphlet, 11 Grenadians from different parts of the country and from different walks of life tell their stories in their own words. And it's clear from what they say that there is something about Grenada that



could be "catching" for other oppressed peoples. But it's no virus.

Roy Cooper, a 40-year-old mason and executive member of the Technical and Allied Workers Union, sums it up: "What we have here in Grenada is revolutionary people's democracy. . . . And now all the people in Dominica, St. Vincent and them other islands, they saying, 'why can't we have house repairs, or free milk, or dentists or free secondary education and free school uniforms like it have in Grenada now?' You see, they seeing that Grenada has a Government which respects the workers, and us, the workers, are right with the Government neck-and-neck!"

*'is freedom we making'* is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014. Please include \$.75 postage and handling.

# 'Teatro Escambray': Cuban drama group tours U.S.

BY MIGUEL PENDAS

A theater group from Cuba, *Teatro Escambray*, opened its tour of the United States in San Diego April 5.

The troupe of over 20 actors and musicians presented a performance of "Ramona," a contemporary play with a feminist theme by Roberto Orihuela.

The San Diego appearance was sponsored by the Chicano *Teatro Mestizo*. The turnout of nearly 300 people, most of them Chicanos, was excellent.

The program notes pointed out that this is the first appearance in North America of a major Cuban

fast-paced and always entertaining. The themes are thoughtful, the humor punchy, and the love scenes are carried off with great sentiment and sincerity.

Despite the Cuban slang employed, the humor was so well played that the American audience caught it all.

In the opening scene, the audience is part of the play. Actors are sprinkled throughout the theater, simulating a typical workplace meeting somewhere in Cuba. Ramona is nominated as "vanguard worker," a great honor. Her exemplary performance on the job and dedication to the revolution are cited as motivating factors.

Then someone raises a problem with Ramona's nomination: one man claims that she is of questionable morals, and has been known to cheat on her husband. Can he prove these accusations? Well, not exactly, but so-and-so told him the whole story.

So-and-so rises quickly to point out that he can't prove it either, but a reliable source told the story to him! There is an objection: "Would anyone be raising such gossip if it were a man being nominated?" Now the audience really gets into the action, with a big cheer.

Her name having been dragged through the mud, Ramona decides to take the floor.

She begins to narrate the story of her stormy relationships with men. The flashback scenes then be-

come the rest of the play.

We see her restrictive home life dominated by her father; her first sweetheart Manolo, whom her parents forbid her to see; her rape by a politician "friend" of the family and her subsequent disgrace; her forced marriage, a nice old man old enough to be her grandfather.

With the triumph of the revolution, however, a new life opens up for her. She learns how to read and write, and takes a wage-paying job for the first time in her life.

Life is looking up, but there's still something missing. Then she meets a guy at work, Antonio, and falls in love with him. Now things are looking real good. She wants to leave the old man, and Antonio wants her to as well. But he insists that she give up working to look after his children.

Ramona is really shaken. Her work is her life, she says, and it is the best way to help the revolution. Antonio says, "You can help the revolution by doing housework."

I won't spoil the play by revealing Ramona's final decision. Let's just say that when she announces it, she gets a standing ovation.

After playing Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and Stanford University, Teatro Escambray will tour the East Coast and Chicago April 16-30.

## THEATER REVIEW

theater group. Teatro Escambray was formed in 1968, and is credited with starting the *Teatro Nuevo* (New Theatre) movement and inspiring the formation of dozens of other theatre groups in Cuba.

The group was born in Havana, but decided to settle in Cuba's Escambray mountain region — "an area which was economically and educationally backward, yet undergoing profound social changes," said the program notes.

The entire experience was extremely satisfying, with excellent acting, singing, and music. The play is

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 611 E. Indian School. Zip: 85012. Tel: (602) 274-7399. Tucson: SWP, P.O. Box 2585. Zip: 85702. Tel: (602) 622-3880 or 882-4304.

**CALIFORNIA:** Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

**FLORIDA:** Gainesville: YSA, c/o Bill Petersen, 612 SW 2nd St. Zip: 32601. Tel: (904) 376-0210. Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

**GEORGIA:** Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

**INDIANA:** Bloomington: YSA, Activities

Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409. Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

**IOWA:** Cedar Falls: YSA, c/o Jim Sprall, 803 W. 11th St. Zip: 50613.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

**LOUISIANA:** New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

**MINNESOTA:** Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 1012 2nd Ave. South, Virginia, Minn. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

**NEBRASKA:** Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 30209. Zip: 68503. Tel: (402) 475-2255.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW MEXICO:** Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. New York, Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 260-6400. New York: City-wide SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 533-2902.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 2531 Gilbert Ave. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

**OREGON:** Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Harrisburg: SWP, YSA, 803 N. 2nd St. Zip: 17105. Tel: (717) 234-5052. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1102 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State Col-

lege: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, P.O. Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 6333 Gulf Freeway, Room 222. Zip: 77023. Tel: (713) 924-4056. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.

**UTAH:** Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**VIRGINIA:** Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. Baltimore-Washington District: 3106 Mt. Pleasant St., NW., Washington, D.C. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7021.

**WASHINGTON:** Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

# Lift Reagan's ban on travel to Cuba!

Continued from Page 1

tions. The great fear of the U.S. capitalists is that workers and farmers in these countries will follow Nicaraguans, Grenadians, and Cubans in kicking out their imperialist exploiters and establishing governments that act in their interests.

The U.S. rulers are unable to admit that the working people of Central America and the Caribbean are choosing the path of revolution as the only means to end colonial plunder and class oppression. Thus, they have consistently charged that the upsurge in the region is the product of "Cuban-sponsored violence." That charge is now repeated to justify the travel ban.

In announcing the ban, the Treasury Department said:

"Cuba, with Soviet economic and military support, is increasing its support for armed violence in this hemisphere. In the face of Cuba's increasing attacks on freedom, self-determination, and democracy, our economic embargo is being tightened."

The ban was imposed under the Trading with the Enemy Act. The form it takes is outlawing the spending of money by U.S. citizens to travel to or from Cuba, or to make purchases or investments there. This in effect outlaws travel to the island.

The only stated exceptions to the ban are Cubans with relatives on the island, reporters, and "bona fide researchers." Penalties for violating the edict include a 10-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine.

The Treasury Department warned that additional steps against Cuba were being considered, "measures . . . designed to make Cuba more fully bear the cost of its adventurism."

Washington's charges against Cuba are a frame-up. In fact, they are precisely the crimes the U.S. imperialists are guilty of.

It is Washington that has kept in power the military dictatorship in El Salvador, in blatant violation of the self-determination of the Salvadoran masses.

It is Washington that installed, through a CIA-led coup in 1954, the long line of generals who have stamped out democracy in Guatemala to this day.

It is Washington that is openly promoting and organizing violent raids into Nicaragua, at the same time it surrounds that country with destroyers, air bases, and growing concentrations of U.S. troops and advisers.

Several thousand counterrevolutionaries, operating in bases in Honduras, have been conducting raids into Nicaragua on an almost daily basis.

As these attacks have escalated, so has the number of U.S. advisers in Honduras — from 27 last year to about 100 now. The Pentagon currently projects extending three Honduran airport runways so they can handle U.S. military transport planes and jet fighters.

The head of the Honduran armed forces, according to the April 20 *New York Times*, "noted that he would welcome American combat troops into the country in an emergency."

Four U.S. warships are currently positioned off Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Washington already has bases in the Panama Canal Zone, less than 300 miles southeast of Nicaragua. And it is negotiating for landing facilities on San Andrés Island, Nicaraguan territory presently occupied by Colombia.

In the face of this outright preparation for an invasion of their country, the Nicaraguans have been accused of trying to improve their defense capacities! And Cuba, along with the Soviet Union, is charged with aiding them.

Despite Washington's provocations, Cuba and Nicaragua have made extraordinary efforts to reduce the tensions, repeatedly offering to negotiate with the U.S. government.

In February, Mexican President José López Portillo offered to serve as a mediator in discussions between the United States and Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Salvadorans. Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Salvadoran revolutionaries immediately accepted the Mexican president's offer.

After stalling on Portillo's initiative, Washington was subsequently forced to begin moving toward discussions with Nicaragua. Some talks have also been held with Cuban officials.

But the April 20 *Washington Post* reported that the Reagan administration now says Nicaragua "does not seem sincere about negotiating," and that the White House "plans to try putting more pressure on Nicaragua before it agrees to begin talks."

That "pressure" is nothing less than stepping up the aggression against Nicaragua. The ban on travel to Cuba is likewise Reagan's answer to the Castro government's offer to negotiate.

The travel ban is not an isolated attack on democratic rights. The U.S. ban imposed on travel to Cuba

in the 1960s was similarly part of a broad package of counterrevolutionary moves taken by Democratic presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, and continued to this day as a bipartisan policy.

Kennedy and Johnson's goal, like Reagan's, was to overthrow the Castro government.

A trade embargo — designed to starve the revolution into submission — was begun in 1960. In 1961 counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, trained and armed by the CIA, were ferried to the Bay of Pigs to spearhead an invasion of Cuba. They were smashed by the Cuban workers and farmers.

In 1962, Kennedy brought the world to the nuclear brink over the presence of Soviet missiles on Cuban soil.

A direct ban on travel to Cuba was also imposed during this period.

The extent of the secret war against Cuba did not surface until the Watergate period. In 1975 a Senate committee headed by Frank Church reported that from 1960 to 1965 U.S. officials organized a whole series of plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. Revelations also appeared on U.S. use of chemical and biological warfare to destroy crops and spread deadly diseases.

These facts are only a small portion of U.S. crimes against the Cuban revolution — crimes which never stopped. The Cubans have reported over the last year many instances of *current* chemical and biological warfare. And they have captured terrorists bent on assassination, who came from the United States.

Most of this information has received scant attention in the capitalist media in this country. Nor has there been a peep of protest from Democratic or Republican politicians. The silence of these politicians, including those today masquerading as "peace" candidates, should not escape notice.

It's not to the two capitalist parties that working people must look to stop Washington's war drive in Central America, but to the growing antiwar movement in this country and everyone who has a stake in it.

The imposition of the travel ban is a calculated step, designed to test the public response and see if further aggressive moves can be taken. It falls into a pattern of similar moves against Cuba.

Months ago, the Treasury Department impounded the Cuban newspaper *Granma* and other literature, preventing them from reaching U.S. readers. Eventually the department backed off and lifted the ban.

But then in February of this year, executives of the American Airways Charter Inc., an airline that flew frequently to Cuba, were indicted under the Trading with the Enemy Act.

Shortly thereafter, on April 9, American Airways Charter was shut down by the Treasury Department.

The sequence of moves underscores the urgency of speaking out against each and every attack on Cuba the moment it occurs.

The travel ban is as much an attack on the democratic rights of U.S. workers as it is an attack on the Cuban people. It serves as a reminder that with every step toward war abroad, the U.S. rulers must slice deeper into democratic rights at home.

The travel ban is one of many assaults on democratic rights today — the threat to prosecute youth who refuse to register for the draft; sharply escalating attacks on Black rights; stepped-up harassment of unionists working in war industries; deportations of undocumented workers; and an array of bills in Congress to strengthen the CIA and FBI.

Part and parcel of these assaults is the U.S. rulers' attempt to deny working people access to the truth. They don't want people in this country to read Cuban newspapers or listen to Radio Havana, much less go to Cuba and see the revolution for themselves.

Despite the rulers' blockade of the truth, the Treasury Department itself admits that about 40,000 people from the United States go to Cuba each year.

Immediate protests are needed to answer the Reagan travel ban — from public meetings, to telegrams, to news conferences, to picket lines at federal buildings. The broadest possible forces — from those organizing against U.S. intervention in Central America, to Black and Latino groups, to unions and civil liberties organizations — should be involved.

Combined with this is the need for all those opposed to the ban to intensify their efforts to build the many antiwar actions occurring throughout the country, including the May 1 demonstration for "Jobs, Not War" in Washington; and most important of all, the massive June 12 disarmament rally scheduled for New York.

# Leon Trotsky on imperialism and colonial revolution

The following is from a September 1937 letter sent by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution, to Mexican artist Diego Rivera. When the Japanese imperialists opened up a war against China in July 1937, there were some communists who balked at taking the side of China, which was ruled by the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek at that time. The considerations raised by Trotsky in regard to the Sino-Japanese war are also relevant to the conflict between Britain and Argentina today. The complete letter is printed in *Leon Trotsky on China*, available for \$9.95 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

We do not and never have put all wars on the same plane. Marx and Engels supported the revolutionary struggle of the Irish against Great Britain, of the Poles against the tsar, even though in these two nationalist wars the leaders were, for the most part, members of the bourgeoisie and even at times of the feudal aristocracy . . . at all events, Catholic reactionaries.

Lenin wrote hundreds of pages demonstrating the primary necessity of distinguishing between imperialist nations and the colonial and semicolonial nations which comprise the great majority of humanity. To speak of "revolutionary defeatism" in general,

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

without distinguishing between exploiter and exploited countries, is to make a miserable caricature of Bolshevism and to put that caricature at the service of the imperialists.

In the Far East we have a classic example. China is a semicolonial country which Japan is transforming, under our very eyes, into a colonial country. Japan's struggle is imperialist and reactionary. China's struggle is emancipatory and progressive.

But Chiang Kai-shek? We need have no illusions about Chiang Kai-shek, his party, or the whole ruling class of China, just as Marx and Engels had no illusions about the ruling classes of Ireland and Poland. Chiang Kai-shek is the executioner of the Chinese workers and peasants. But today he is forced, despite himself, to struggle against Japan for the remainder of the independence of China. Tomorrow he may again betray. It is possible. It is probable. It is even inevitable. But today he is struggling. Only cowards, scoundrels, or complete imbeciles can refuse to participate in that struggle.

Let us use the example of a strike to clarify the question. We do not support all strikes. If, for example, a strike is called for the exclusion of Negro, Chinese, or Japanese workers from a factory, we are opposed to that strike. But if a strike aims at bettering — insofar as it can — the conditions of the workers, we are the first to participate in it, whatever the leadership. In the vast majority of strikes, the leaders are reformists, traitors by profession, agents of capital. They oppose every strike. But from time to time the pressure of the masses or of the objective situation forces them into the path of struggle.

Let us imagine, for an instant, a worker saying to himself: "I do not want to participate in the strike because the leaders are agents of capital." This doctrine of this ultraleft imbecile would serve to brand him by his real name: a *strikebreaker*. The case of the Sino-Japanese War, is from this point of view, entirely analogous. If Japan is an imperialist country and if China is the victim of imperialism, we favor China. Japanese patriotism is the hideous mask of worldwide robbery. Chinese patriotism is legitimate and progressive. . . .

But can Chiang Kai-shek assure the victory? I do not believe so. It is he, however, who began the war and who today directs it. To be able to replace him it is necessary to gain decisive influence among the proletariat and in the army, and to do this it is necessary not to remain suspended in the air but to place oneself in the midst of the struggle. We must win influence and prestige in the *military* struggle against the foreign invasion and in the *political* struggle against the weaknesses, the deficiencies, and the internal betrayal.

### Further Reading

#### Leon Trotsky on China

Introduction by P'eng Shu-tse, 687 pp., \$9.95.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St. New York, New York, 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

# Guatemalan trade unions — the Coca Cola story

BY DAVID SALNER

Alexander Haig has been on a campaign to convince the American people that our number one problem is the spread of Cuban influence in Central America.

Haig's statements will cause any thinking person to wonder. Why is the richest, most powerful nation in the world losing this propaganda war with a tiny, relatively poor island?

Why can't the U.S. government, with its think-tanks and a massive intelligence network (not to

## AS I SEE IT

mention the terror-inspiring armed forces), convince the poor workers and peasants of Central America to "do it our way"?

I recently came across the story of workers in the Coca Cola bottling plant in Guatemala. It is a striking example of why Washington and its big business partners cannot win the hearts and minds of Central Americans.

The Coca Cola workers in Guatemala first had a union in the early 1950s, but it was wiped out during the U.S.-backed coup that toppled the government of Jacobo Arbenz in 1954. Some 533 unions were decertified in the course of this coup.

Years passed, and in 1968 the Coca Cola workers tried to organize again. This time their central leader was kidnapped and several days later his tortured body was discovered.

Despite this grim warning from the company, the workers kept the struggle for union rights alive. When Coca Cola tried to use the disastrous 1976 earthquake as an excuse to fire 152 workers, the rest of the workforce occupied the plant and a nationwide solidarity movement was begun.

Disturbed by the fact that the Coca Cola struggle was becoming a national cause, the company prepared a new wave of terror.

In December 1978 a union leader was killed while on his delivery route. After unsuccessful assassination attempts, his successor was driven into exile.

The new union leader, Manuel López Balam, was murdered on April 5, 1979. His successor was arrest-

ed, and the Coca Cola workers were finally forced to take their union activities underground.

On May 27, 1980, another Coke employee was added to the long list of labor martyrs when the leader of the underground union, Mario Rudolfo Mendizabal, was shot and killed as he left his workshift.

People in the United States are taught that the people of "the banana republics" are too "hot-tempered and ignorant" to sustain democracy. As the example of the Coca Cola workers shows, the unmistakable enemy of democracy in Central America is Washington and giant corporations like Coca Cola. Cuba and the Sandinista government of Nicaragua have gained influence — not through some insidious plots or undercover operations, as Alexander Haig would like us to believe — but because they have stood up to the bullying tactics of the great imperial boss.

One last point. To the class-conscious workers of Guatemala, Coca Cola is not "the real thing." As their signs and wall posters point out:

"People, do not drink Coca Cola. It contains blood of trade unionists murdered by the company."

## LETTERS

### From our readers behind bars

#### Frameup case

I am respectfully requesting your newspaper to print my story. My name is Robert L. Williams, age 30. I am a Black man, son of Rev. C.R. Williams, long-time civil rights leader and fighter.

I am a member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the American Muslim Mission.

On October 13 I was sentenced to 120 years in prison for a crime I did not commit, the rape of a white woman. I was convicted by an all-white jury, which took 27 minutes to deliberate. The assailant is supposed to be five feet eight inches or taller and weigh 174-180 pounds. I am five foot five and weigh 130 pounds. The rape was supposed to have occurred in August of 1980. I was arrested in October. The charges were dropped in December after the woman was unable to identify me in a lineup. But the charges were reissued after I filed suit against the police for violation of my civil and human rights.

We need your support in our fight to expose the local and international revenge laid down by the Reagan administration against civil rights fighters here in America.

The sickness of our society is no accident, but carefully planned to destroy us and our ideas. I was framed but I will continue to fight for a just, a free society. Readers write me so we can exchange ideas on fighting the evil of the land. Unity will defeat capitalism, injustice, and oppression.

Robert Williams  
Reg #3725  
Box 30

Pendleton, Indiana 46064

#### 'Cancellation'

I am writing to cancel my subscription. I am a prisoner at the Marion Correctional Institution. I have been receiving the *Militant* through the prisoners fund for approximately one-and-a-half years now. I am being released on parole and no longer need the prisoners subscription.

But I by no means can go without the *Militant*. As soon as I am released I intend to purchase a subscription and contribute to the prisoners fund. Thanks for a year and a half of

inspiration and insight. And a hearty thanks to the contributors to the prisoners fund. Keep up the good work.

A prisoner  
Marion, Ohio

#### Beautiful paper

I'm writing in regard to this wonderful *Militant* newspaper that I'm receiving. It's a very, very nice paper, and I enjoy reading it. Needless to say, I do appreciate it. So I want to thank you all for publishing such a beautiful paper.

A prisoner  
McAlester, Oklahoma

#### Authenticity

I'm incarcerated in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Louisiana. I'm writing with hopes of being placed on the *Militant's* mailing list. I've read this news publication and I enjoy its authenticity in dealing with facts surrounding world and domestic issues. It's like no other news publication.

A prisoner  
Angola, Louisiana

#### Do me right

This is to let you know I have been transferred to another prison and would like the paper to come at this address. Also I would like to note that I have four months left, so do me right till then. Be seeing you.

A prisoner  
Chino, California

#### Quality

I have just finished reading your *Militant* newspaper. It is the first time I've come in contact with and read the newspaper. I must admit that I was very impressed with the quality of the articles featured in the paper, and I was very much enlightened by the information that I received from the articles. It is information that I would have no knowledge of if I was to depend solely on and believe the information that is presented to the masses via the capitalist-controlled media.

I was told by a fellow inmate that the price of a subscription is free for people who are incarcerated. If that is so, could you please start my subscription as soon as possible?

A prisoner  
Memphis, Tennessee

#### Malcolm X

Please send me a subscription to your newspaper. It would be helpful and appreciated by me and all the Brothers here in Maximum Security A at Soledad Prison.

We recognize the strength of the *Militant* and we also remember the words that our Brother Malcolm X spoke [at a Militant Labor Forum Jan. 7, 1965, in New York].

"It's the third time I've had the opportunity to be a guest of the Militant Labor Forum. I always feel that it is an honor and every time that they open the door for me to do so, I will be right here. The *Militant* newspaper is one of the best in New York City. In fact, it is one of the best anywhere you go today."

A prisoner  
Soledad, California

#### A friend

I am presently incarcerated in this county prison for a one-to-two-year sentence for a crime I definitely know nothing about.

In any event, a friend of mine came to visit me and told me, along with giving me the address, about a particular newspaper he bought off of someone while in Philadelphia shopping.

Needless to say the name of the newspaper is the *Militant*.

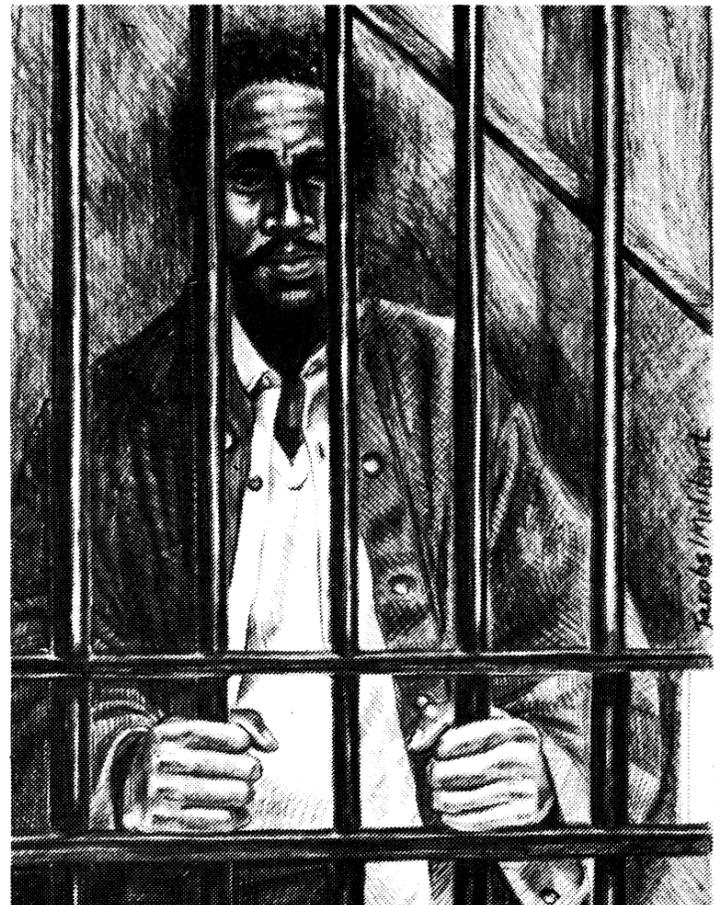
I am temporarily without any funds in my prison account. However, could you please put me down for a six month subscription and as soon as I am financially able I will send you a money-order for that much along with a few dollars for a few pamphlets.

A prisoner  
Thorton, Pennsylvania

#### Internationalism

Again I would like to express my debt and gratitude to the people of the *Militant* for making my prisoners subscription possible. I have been receiving the newspaper for almost two years now and I have enjoyed every issue. The comrades I share the *Militant* with agree that the staff has done a magnificent job in getting the truth out.

Being that I am a native of Puerto Rico and have experienced directly the hardships of colonialism imposed on my people on the island and the U.S.; I appreciate the pure internationalist sentiments in the *Militant*. In the future I hope to do my ut-



most to contribute to and further develop solidarity and unity in the socialist camp on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Viva Puerto Rico Libre y Socialista.

A prisoner  
Hillsboro, Illinois

#### Tells the truth

I am writing this letter in hopes that you can send us your paper or any other paper that tells the truth like yours. I am from South Dakota and I have always been involved with the American Indian Movement. Now that I am in these parts I get little support from other Indian Centers to start a Native group in this prison and I am having a hard time. But I feel in my heart that your paper can be a great help in keeping Brothers aware of what is going on because your paper tells the truth.

I thank you if you can send back issues and ones that are coming up. We will pass your paper to other cell blocks and to other Brothers to read.

I know times are hard and it costs to get your paper out. When we get some money we will send some.

May the Great Spirit be with you all in struggle in helping the people and your path.

A Friend  
Asheville, North Carolina

#### Outstanding

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the many editors and staff members for the outstanding reporting on community issues as well as international.

However I do appreciate the kind of perspective from the *Militant* that you don't get from the standard press, a perspective which clarifies much of the ambiguous views read and seen in established mass media.

Also I am very interested in knowing more about the *Militant* and would like to apply for a subscription under your prisoners status.

A prisoner  
Dannemora, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The '*Militant*' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

## Nicaraguans denounce betrayal by former army commander

### Sandinistas declare Edén Pastora is pawn in U.S. war drive

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN  
AND JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA — While Washington is talking about opening negotiations on relations with the revolutionary government here, four U.S. destroyers have positioned themselves in Nicaragua's territorial waters off the Atlantic Coast. Nicaraguans are wondering if this new act of aggression is a step toward a naval blockade.

On April 15, the very day the Nicaraguan government extended the current state of emergency for 30 days, the Nicaraguan revolution was attacked from a

new direction.

Adding fuel to the imperialists' fire, former guerrilla commander Edén Pastora ("Commander Zero") — who is currently busy reopening the business interests he held in Costa Rica before the revolution — chose this week to publicly declare his 180-degree turn to the right.

In a stunning betrayal of the revolution, he delivered an anticommunist tirade, declaring that the time had come "to straighten things out" in Nicaragua "by driving the government out with bullets."

Apparently expecting an outpouring

of support in the army and militia, the former vice-minister of defense and chief of the militias received instead the rejection of virtually the entire country, and of revolutionary forces in Guatemala and El Salvador as well.

#### What Pastora said

Ten months ago, Pastora left Nicaragua, telling friends he was headed to Guatemala to continue Che Guevara's internationalist heritage.

Yet on April 15, he personally invited some 100 journalists to a news confer-

ence in a luxury hotel on the outskirts of San José, Costa Rica, with the opposite goal in mind. At the press conference Pastora read a two-hour long statement.

What did the ex-commander have to say?

He accused not Reagan, not Haig, not the CIA, but the nine commanders of the Nicaraguan revolution of betraying their people by "alienating" U.S. imperialism. He said this could cause the United States to attack Nicaragua and "could cost the lives of 200,000 people."

Making no reference to the complete military encirclement of Nicaragua by U.S. and other counterrevolutionary forces, Pastora argued that Nicaragua was engaged in a dangerous military buildup.

He complained of the alleged Cuban and Soviet military presence in Nicaragua, calling on the Nicaraguan people to "remain on a war footing" as long as a single foreign soldier remains in the country.

Pastora threatened "military action" to change the course of the revolution. He cried out over land and factories being confiscated. He declared that Commanders of the Revolution Humberto and Daniel Ortega had clearly defined themselves as communists.

He charged that the Soviet Union was just as "imperialist" as the United States.

Echoing U.S. lies, Pastora lamented "seeing our Miskitu, Sumo, and Rama Indians persecuted, imprisoned, and killed without the radio and press being able to expose to the world this regime of terror that reigns on the Atlantic Coast, that rules in all Nicaragua, under the guise of the now feared State Security apparatus."

Pastora also lashed out at the anthem of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which, on the basis of more than 100 years of experience, says: "We struggle against the Yankees, enemies of humanity." But these lines have been in the anthem since before the triumph of the revolution.

And Nicaraguans are clear that it is the U.S. government that is their enemy — not the American people.

#### Scanty evidence

The evidence Pastora gave for all his charges?

The fact that the nine members of the FSLN National Directorate, who lived for years in the mountains, in jail, or in exile, are now living in homes expropriated from the Somozaists, many of whom are now living in Miami.

Other proof?

The Sandinistas are using the Mercedes-Benz automobiles left by the Somozaists for government transportation needs (in addition to a far greater number of Toyota jeeps).

For these grave offenses, Pastora told reporters, he would "drive [the nine commanders] out of their mansions and Mercedes Benzes with bullets."

Who was Pastora, and what is his real complaint?

Nobody would deny that Edén Pastora played a significant role in the Nicaraguan revolution.

He participated in the armed opposition actions of the 1950s. In the 1960s he helped in recruitment and carried out



Nicaraguans demonstrating in March against U.S. war moves. News of Pastora's betrayal brought new demonstrations branding him traitor to revolution.

## Challengers in mine union elections hold successful support rally

BY RONNIE ZUHLKE

PITTSBURGH — A series of rallies and fund-raisers is being held in coal towns in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania by the "Why Not the Best" slate in the November United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) elections.

The slate, headed by Richard Trumka, a 32-year-old coal miner from Nemacolin, Pennsylvania, is challenging incumbent UMWA President Sam Church and his supporters.

On April 17 the Trumka slate's supporters held a rally in Purselglove, near Morgantown, West Virginia. The next day they were in Dilles Bottom, Ohio.

On April 25 they are to appear at a fund-raiser in Frederickstown, Pennsylvania.

Their campaign was mapped out at a March 28 rally in Cokesburg, Pennsylvania. The challengers describe their goal as returning the UMWA to its best fighting traditions.

Trumka, who is running for president of the union, was recently elected to represent District 4 on the International Executive Board and is chairman of the Safety Committee in UMWA Local 6290.

Cecil Roberts, the slate's candidate for vice-president, is from Cabin Creek, West Virginia, and is currently vice-president of District 17. John Banovic, candidate for secretary-treasurer, is from Litchfield, Illinois, and is president of District 12.

Clemmie Allen, the slate's candidate for international teller, began the March 28 Cokesburg rally by contrasting the Trumka team's \$4-a-plate lamb dinner with a \$200-a-plate fund-raiser that Church held the next weekend in Washington, D.C.

(In Washington, top union officials contributed \$200,000 for Church. Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO president, did not attend but sent a letter of "congratula-

tions" to Church.

(Church had announced March 24 that he was seeking reelection to the UMWA presidency. At a Charleston, West Virginia, news conference, Church spoke out against the fights waged by the UMWA in the late 1970s over the right to strike on local contractual issues.)

Trumka, in his speech at the Cokesburg rally, took aim at the Church leadership and its performance in the 1981 UMWA contract negotiations.

"People like my grandfather and the men and women in this hall have fought to build this union through their sacrifice, struggle, and courage," Trumka said.

He assailed the Church leadership for loss of the health service card in the 1978 contract. He reminded those present that it took a long and bitter strike to win the health card.

Continued on Page 14

Continued on Page 15