

U.S. plans military sabotage of elections in Nicaragua



Barricada



Militant/Fred Murphy

Sandinista soldiers at wreckage site of helicopter piloted by CIA mercenaries who attacked Nicaraguan town in September. Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega (right) told UN delegates that Washington plans new military offensive to begin October 15.

Ortega issues warning at UN

BY CINDY JAQUITH

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The U.S. government is preparing a new military offensive by mercenary forces against Nicaragua, aimed at preventing that country's November 4 elections, Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega said October 2. Speaking before the General Assembly of the United Nations, Ortega warned that the offensive is scheduled to begin October 15 and could lead to a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leader addressed the UN and several other gatherings in this country in an effort to sound the alarm on the dangerous escalation of the U.S. war in Central America and Nicaragua's efforts to prevent what he called "a holocaust" in the region.

Two hundred U.S. opponents of Washington's war against Nicaragua came to the UN to hear the FSLN leader's speech. A welcoming demonstration, initiated by Casa Nicaragua, was held outside the UN building to greet him.

Based on intelligence gathered by the Sandinistas, Ortega told the UN delegates that thousands of CIA-led mercenaries are concentrated on the Costa Rican and Honduran borders with Nicaragua. The mid-October assault will include the mining of Nicaragua's ports, aerial and naval attacks, and attempts to seize portions of Nicaragua's territory, he said. The entire operation is being coordinated by U.S. military

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Layoffs hit miners as pact is ratified

BY KATHY MICKELLS

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — As miners filed into local union halls across the country to cast their ballots on the new national coal contract, U.S. Steel Corp. announced a new wave of layoffs and mine shutdowns in the coalfields of southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Following the overwhelming ratification of the soft-coal contract by members of the United Mine Workers (UMWA), other companies have similarly "rewarded" the coal miners with indefinite layoffs and short workweeks.

UMWA members voted 5 to 1 in favor of the agreement negotiated by the mine workers union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). The 1984 contract varies little from the 1981 contract. It contains no major new concessions and does mark some modest gains. The coal operators agreed to a 10.25 percent wage increase — much less than past wage gains — over the 40-month contract, along with small increases in pension benefits and sickness and accident pay. Additional language in the individual safety rights clause makes it easier for miners to withdraw from unsafe working conditions.

Although most union miners are now working under the new 1984 contract, some 2,000 UMWA members at the A.T. Massey coal group, the nation's sixth largest coal producer, did not report to work on October 1, honoring a selective strike against the coal operator.

A.T. Massey pulled out of the coal operators association before contract talks got under way, demanding independent negotiations with the union. The Massey coal group operates union and nonunion mines in southern West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Its antiunion stance is notorious in the coalfields and has earned it the anger of the union.

"They have tried to bleed this union 'til it's broke," stated David Vivovich, field representative for the UMWA. "Finally we have A.T. Massey in a position where

we've needed them for years."

National Mines Corporation's 350 UMWA members also struck October 1, as did miners at a handful of much smaller companies. Other independents such as Island Creek Coal and Pittsburgh & Midway signed "me too" agreements modeled on the BCOA pact. By doing this at the last minute they avoided the possibility of a selective strike against their mines. At Emery Mining in Utah the UMWA agreed to a five-day extension of a strike deadline.

UMWA Pres. Richard Trumka said that negotiations with the independent holdouts will be tougher than with the BCOA. "It was their choice to negotiate independently," he said. "If we are required to go on strike, then obviously the price of a settlement would go up. I couldn't ask the membership to go on strike to accept the same contract that the rest of the membership did without a strike."

Miners across the coalfields expressed satisfaction, but not elation, when the announcement of the settlement was made. Although the union ranks had prepared themselves for a strike, many felt that the economic times were such that a long walkout would likely achieve only minimal gains, if any. When miners heard the explanation of the contract and saw there were no major concessions, most felt they had little choice but to accept it.

A common response was expressed by a miner in Vestaburg, Pennsylvania, who said, "It could have been better, but the way the economy is, you can't be so particular."

"At least we didn't take any concessions. We've lived with this contract for three years already, I guess we can live with it for three more," was how one miner put it to this correspondent. "But what I don't get is why these companies gave us a contract without a fight?"

This question has led to a certain uneasiness among coal miners. The UMWA has always had to fight hard for even minimal gains. A well-founded mistrust of the coal

operators has many wondering what the operators have "up their sleeve."

It didn't take long for many miners to find out.

Company and union officials alike called the new contract a step to "stability" in the coalfields. This, they believe, will enhance the position of the U.S. coal industry and make it a more attractive supplier to potential buyers.

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Socialist campaign launches 'Militant,' 'PM' sales drive

BY CRAIG GANNON

The Socialist Workers Party 1984 National Campaign has just launched a five-week period of intensified campaigning for the socialist presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González.

At the heart of this campaign, said the national campaign manager, Andrea Morell, will be a drive to sell 15,000 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. The drive will begin on October 13 and run through November 17.

Morell stressed that all campaign supporters will be discussing how they can best participate.

"The *Militant* is the voice of the socialist campaign," Morell said. "And our campaign is the *only* socialist campaign. We are the only political current telling the truth — that capitalism is the problem and that working people have nothing to gain from supporting capitalism, its wars, its government, or its political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans."

"And this is one campaign that doesn't end on election day," Morell said, "because none of the big questions facing working people will be settled by the elections. The U.S. war against our brothers

and sisters in Central America will continue to escalate, just as the employers' war against working people in this country will deepen."

In addition to sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, socialist campaigners will distribute 120,000 copies of a new campaign brochure presenting the program of the socialist campaign. Twenty thousand of them will be in Spanish.

Fifty-five other SWP candidates are running for U.S. Senate, Congress, and in state and local campaigns. These candidates will help lead the efforts to sell the press and campaign at plant gates; in working-class, Black, and Latino communities; and at political meetings. There will be increased opportunities as the elections approach for the candidates to speak before union meetings, meetings of fighters for Black and Latino rights, women's rights organizations, and antiwar groups. They will also step up efforts to reach farm workers and working farmers in the countryside.

Two national campaign-sales teams will be launched the weekend of October 8 that will tour coalfields.

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BY LISA HICKLER

SEATTLE — Socialist workers here recently had the opportunity to talk politics with delegates to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) convention, held here September 17-25. During the course of the convention, 70 IAM members bought copies of the *Militant*.

Discussions with IAM members from around the country indicated that a number of them were familiar with the *Militant* in their local areas. This is because members of their unions distribute the paper to coworkers, and because branches of the Socialist Workers Party in cities across the country distribute socialist literature to IAM members at their plant gates.

In Seattle, the SWP has established sales of the *Militant* and distribution of campaign literature to IAM members at their plant gates as a number-one priority this fall.

The IAM here organizes some 28,000 Boeing workers in the union's largest district — District 751. An additional 14,000 IAM members in the area are organized into other local lodges from machine shops, shipyards, aerospace-related shops, auto body repair shops, truck assembly plants, and other industries.

A number of challenges face Seattle socialists in getting socialist literature into the hands of Boeing workers.

Heavy layoffs have reduced the number of workers, especially many of the younger, Black, and women workers. Boeing workers are targets of the bosses' propaganda that their jobs are tied to a big war budget and a strong "national defense." In addition, the irregularity of plant gate sales over the past period meant that the *Militant* was not known by a layer of workers in the plant.

Though *Militant* salespeople in Seattle found that they sell fewer copies of the paper at Boeing plant gates than at some other area plants, they have determined that the Boeing teams are key to their efforts to reach workers who are part of the biggest and potentially most powerful section of organized labor here.

Over the past several months, the SWP branch made a number of decisions which enhanced the process of establishing a political presence at Boeing plant gates, and becoming better known by IAM members here.

Seattle socialists are campaigning to win support from IAM members for the SWP presidential slate of Mel Mason and Andrea González. Locally, socialists are running Cheryll Hidalgo for governor. For Congress in the 7th Congressional District, the SWP has fielded Mark Manning, a Boeing worker and member of IAM District 751. Campaign leaflets have been distributed at Boeing

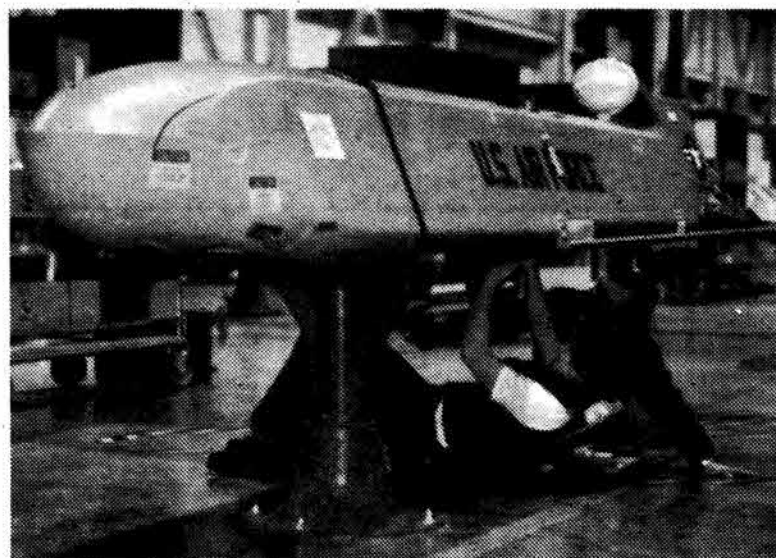
plant gates. In addition, an open letter to IAM convention delegates was issued by the Mark Manning campaign.

The letter discussed the need for labor to fight against the U.S. war in Central America, and linked this with the need for labor solidarity in this country and around the world. This literature received a friendly response at the convention, where several delegates attended a campaign open house. Seattle socialists met one Boeing-Everett worker who bought a subscription to the *Militant* and is interested in attending future campaign events.

Socialists here have increased the number of Boeing *Militant* sales teams from two to four per week. In addition, a team distributes literature every week at another, smaller IAM-organized aerospace plant.

Seattle socialists determined that one key to the success of these teams would be regularly discussing them in order to note progress as it is made as part of a long-term process of becoming known by IAM members.

For example, at one gate socialists had gone for weeks without selling a single copy of the *Militant*. But slowly a few workers would nod to salespeople they recognized. Some would smile and take a leaflet. Some would stop and talk for a few moments



Boeing workers build cruise missile at plant near Seattle

before going in to work.

At Boeing-Renton, two Black workers have begun to regularly take campaign literature and occasionally buy a paper. Boeing-Renton sales team members noted that the coverage in the *Militant* of the Toledo AP Parts United Auto Workers strike got a good reception. One young male worker bought a copy of the *Militant* because of its coverage of the attacks on a local abortion clinic.

At another gate, it took a big world event like the invasion of Grenada before some workers bought their first copy of the *Militant*. They decided they wanted to

know what the socialists had to say about this important event.

In weeks when all the *Militant* sales teams are carried out, sales still average only one to three papers at Boeing. But Seattle socialists are still in the process of establishing the regularity of these teams and look forward to continued progress. Reception to the *Militant* has also improved in recent weeks as more workers have been recalled to jobs. In addition, some of those recalled are *Militant* supporters who will complement the work of plant gate teams through their discussions with coworkers.

Socialist campaign launches five-week sales drive

Continued from front page

One team will go to southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Alabama. It will be led by Héctor Marroquín and Kipp Dawson. Marroquín is an undocumented worker and an SWP leader who is fighting government efforts to deport him. Dawson is a member of the United Mine Workers.

Clare Fraenzl, also a coal miner and candidate for Congress from the 22nd C.D. in Pittsburgh, will lead the team in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Fraenzl recently traveled to Britain and met with striking British coal miners who are leading a major working-class battle against layoffs in that country. U.S. workers have a big stake in the outcome of this fight and can learn some important lessons from it. Also on this team will be Lee Martindale, the business manager of the *Militant*.

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance have been among the most active supporters of the socialist campaign. Two YSA leaders — Eller Haywood and Jackie Floyd — are touring 12 cities to build support for the SWP campaign and encourage young people to join the YSA. Haywood and Floyd are youth coordinators for the socialist campaign.

They will contrast the internationalism

of the socialist campaign with the U.S. chauvinism and war moves of the Democrats and the Republicans. They will encourage those young people who want to fight against war, want to defend our unions and the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women, to join the YSA.

In the next five weeks, socialist campaigners will redouble our efforts to get out and talk to working people about the big political questions facing us — chief among them the U.S. war against our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The *Militant* has had a bureau in Managua, Nicaragua, since the first months of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is the best source of information about Nicaragua. Week after week, the *Militant* tells the truth about this country where workers and farmers run the government and human needs are put before profits.

Socialist campaigners can help explain to U.S. workers why we have no stake in fighting the Nicaraguan workers and farmers. In fact, we need to fight for a workers and farmers government in this country.

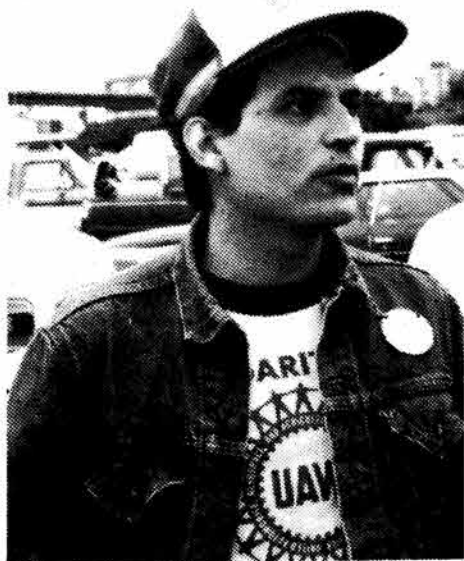
Sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* can help publicize antiwar activ-

ities, like the October 27 New York action against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. These sales will be an important part of socialists' participation in such actions.

Through the socialist campaign and expanding the circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, socialist workers will put forward a class-struggle program to U.S. workers who are looking for answers in the face of deepening blows.

The socialist campaign and press will champion the struggles of fighters for Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano rights. The *Militant* will continue to be a strong voice answering the government and church hierarchy's attacks on the rights of women to safe, legal abortions.

"This effort to get out the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and to make the socialist campaign as visible as possible is carrying out the decision we made at our party's August national convention — to participate in the discussions in the working class about the U.S. war in Central America and to draw the connections between the war by the ruling class against working people here and abroad," said Morell.



Héctor Marroquín, an undocumented worker fighting deportation from United States, will be leading a socialist campaign-sales team to coalfields of Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Follow the socialist presidential campaign — Subscribe to the 'Militant'

While Reagan and Mondale defend the ruling rich's policy of war and union-busting at \$1,000-a-plate dinners and "media events," the socialist candidates for president and vice-president, Mel Mason and Andrea González, are on a different kind of campaign trail.

Mason and González know it is in struggles, not elections, that gains are won for working people. And that's where you'll find them — on union picket lines, at demonstrations against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean, and at protests against farm foreclosures, racist cop brutality, and attacks on women's rights.

Their defense of workers' rights doesn't stop at the U.S. border. They've been to Ireland, Britain, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico to express solidarity and learn about workers and farmers' struggles internationally.

That's where you'll find the *Militant* too, bringing you the kind of news and analysis you can't get except in a paper like ours — written by and for working people, not the rich.

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UAW-GM contract: more layoffs, new round of concessions

BY JEFF POWERS

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — On September 26 the 300 local presidents and shop chairmen who make up the General Motors Bargaining Council of the United Auto Workers (UAW) met in St. Louis. They voted overwhelmingly to recommend that a tentative agreement worked out between the union and the giant U.S. auto manufacturer be ratified by the membership.

The tentative agreement had initially been negotiated by GM and an 11-person national union negotiating committee. The pact came after a brief six-day selective strike that idled 92,000 workers at 17 GM facilities.

UAW Pres. Owen Bieber called the pact a "historic agreement." Bieber said that the proposed settlement is so good that it will "sell itself." One member of the national negotiating committee, Pete Kelly, voted against the proposal. Kelly, the head of the "Restore and More" group within the UAW, recommends that the union membership vote against ratification.

Because they know that the membership is in no mood for more concessions, the UAW officials are now on a big campaign to try to convince the ranks of the need to ratify this pact. This process, which is expected to be completed by October 14, includes a series of meetings in each of the UAW's nine regions, as well as plans to distribute a 23-page contract summary to every member at GM.

More concessions

Although the full package is not yet available in the plants — and won't be for another six months — the summary shows that the so-called historic agreement contains only more and deeper concessions that GM's owners plan to exact from its workers.

The first year of the pact provides a 1 percent to 3.5 percent wage increase, depending on each worker's classification. Janitors will receive 1 percent, or 9 cents per hour, while skilled trades get 3.5 percent, or 41 cents per hour. Major assemblers get 20 cents per hour, and other operators get 12 cents per hour.

Given the fact that wages were frozen in 1982, and no one since then has received an hourly wage increase except for cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases, these are paltry figures. GM proposed a larger increase for the skilled trades as a way to further divide the union.

Workers will receive no hourly contract raises for the following two years. Instead, lump-sum bonuses of 1 to 3.5 percent are offered, again depending on job classification. These payments are called "performance bonuses" and are tied to a planned 5 percent productivity increase. The performance bonuses will not be included in the calculation of overtime. Also, at the end of the contract they will not be a part of the permanent wage structure.

No job security

The much publicized "job security" plan, which UAW officials said was the number one goal of these negotiations, centers on a \$1 billion job bank scheme that Bieber describes as "unprecedented." This "unprecedented" proposal provides workers no job protection whatsoever. Rather it allows GM to go full speed ahead in its openly stated plans to permanently lay off 60-120,000 additional members over the next three years.

Workers with one or more years seniority who get laid off due to the introduction of new technology such as robots, or from "outsourcing" — contracting out for parts from nonunion shops in this country or other countries — are eligible to enter the bank. While in the bank a worker will receive the regular rate of pay of the last job classification he or she held. However, no one involved in a layoff due to a downturn in the economy, such as a sales volume decrease, will be eligible to enter the bank.

Placement in the bank is determined by

seniority. A worker placed in the bank may be later bumped out on the street by a more senior employee.

Once in the bank a worker must take any employment in any GM plant anywhere in the country where an opening comes up. And bank employees must take any job they are told to take. These jobs may be "outside the bargaining unit" and may be "nontraditional." This represents a big victory for GM in its attempt to break work rules and weaken the union.

"Security committees," composed equally of company and union representatives, will be established on both local and national levels to oversee the program.

The program will get \$166 million a year and therefore will cover fewer than 10,000 workers at any given time. This represents less than 3 percent of the present GM unionized work force and is nowhere near the minimum number of workers GM plans to get rid of.

Unlike other programs, such as Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) and Guaranteed Income Stream (GIS), which are regenerating, funding for the job bank ends in six years. If there are more job bank employees than openings, workers could receive lump-sum payments totalling \$10,000 to \$55,000 — depending on their seniority — but no jobs.

The negotiations netted a letter from GM promising that the company will begin small-car production in the United States.



UAW officials have recommended new concession contract to members. Proposed contract weakens the union, gives concessions for phony promises of job security.

This project, known as Saturn, will be done "assuming that the concepts developed by the Saturn Joint Study Team can be effected."

The first major step GM's owners have taken to implement this program was the joint venture they are now participating in with Toyota in Fremont, California. At this plant, called Nummi, workers receive \$2-3 an hour less than their counterparts at other GM facilities. At Nummi, jobs, especially skilled trades, are combined, and the company has devised a whole series of work rules designed to speed up production and punish workers who speak out against Nummi policies.

In another move described as "a historic first," the UAW and GM will jointly develop and launch new business ventures. This project will be funded by GM for a total of \$100 million.

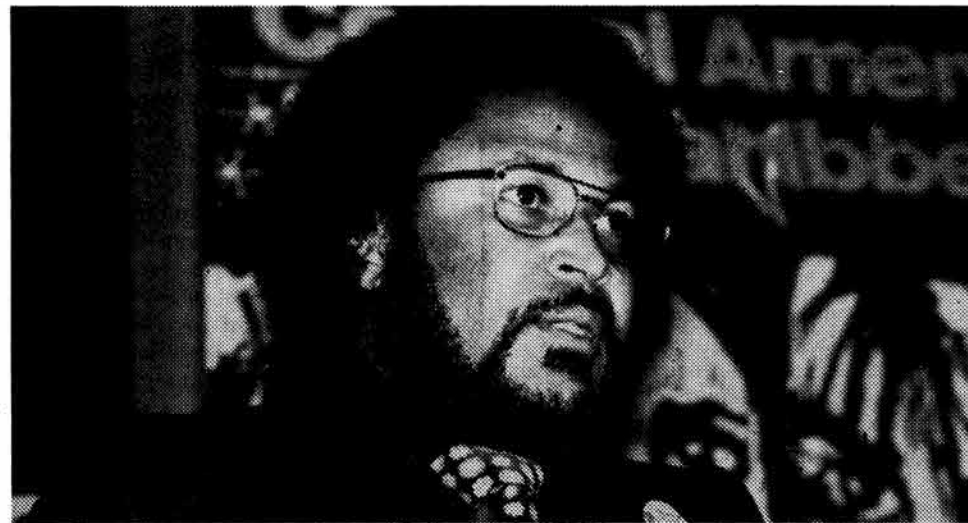
Although exact details are not available, this will mean that the union will now help GM find new ways to invest money and make profits. This can only be done at the expense of the workers.

Inroads on COLA

The tentative agreement allows GM to make major inroads on COLA at workers' expense.

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New York SWP in ballot fight



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason returned to New York to help lead emergency campaign against undemocratic exclusion from ballot.

BY DIANE WANG

NEW YORK CITY — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, interrupted a national speaking tour for an emergency stop here October 2 after the state Board of Elections last week declared Mason's nominating petitions "null and void."

"The attempt to keep me off the ballot is more than an attack on my campaign or the legitimacy of the Socialist Workers Party," Mason told an October 2 press conference. "It is an outrage against the 30,000 New York residents who signed my nominating petitions. It is an attack on everyone's right to have an antiwar, Black, pro-trade-union, and socialist alternative in the November elections."

Mason also denounced a bomb threat against his New York campaign headquarters. On the window, written over an invitation to an October 16 socialist campaign meeting, was graffiti which said "A bomb will do the talking, commie."

Mason explained that the Democrats' and Republicans' denial of ballot rights, as well as other government attacks on civil liberties, encouraged right-wing threats like this one. The Michigan socialist campaign headquarters was also recently a target of rightist graffiti during a fight over the SWP's right to be on the ballot there.

Mason's supporters collected 30,000 signatures, about 50 percent more than re-

quired. In preparing the petitions, SWP campaign representatives met with the Board of Elections to find out what state requirements were. "We followed their procedures exactly," Mason pointed out.

Last week the Board of Elections, ignoring the 30,000 people who signed to nominate Mason, declared the petitions invalid because they supposedly did not list the candidate's electors for the electoral college.

In fact, the SWP petitions do list the electors, in a way shown on the sample petition distributed by the Board of Elections.

"This has nothing to do with technicalities and hocus-pocus about the electoral college," Mason said. "The Board of Elections is trying to keep me off the ballot because of my program. They want to restrict the ballot to the viewpoints of the Democratic and Republican parties."

Mason charged that this attack on democratic rights goes hand in hand with both Reagan's and Mondale's program to escalate the U.S. war against Central America. "This attempt to keep me off the New York ballot unmasks the hypocrisy of U.S. slanders about the elections in Nicaragua," Mason said.

He pointed out that, in Nicaragua, the revolutionary Sandinista government had postponed registration deadlines and increased subsidies to political parties for campaign expenses. Mason contrasted that

to the undemocratic maneuvers with trumped-up technicalities that his campaign faces.

Mason has won wide support for his fight to appear on the ballot. Among those who have protested the Board of Election's ruling or offered help are: Salvador Tio of the New York American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Edith Tiger of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Union; the New Jersey ACLU; Lanni Walters of the National Lawyers Guild in Albany; Bill Henning, vice president of the Communications Workers of America Local 1180; Lois Cucinello from the United Auto Workers; Dave Dyson of the Labor Committee for Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador; E.J. Josey, president of the NAACP in Albany; Nancy Stultz, a national board member of the National Organization for Women; Carl Bessinger of the War Resisters League; the Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Solidaridad; the Center for Cuban Studies; the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Carlos Santiago of the Labor Education Center at Rutgers University; and the New York Committee for Marxist Education.

In Albany, 32 members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union who are coworkers of SWP congressional candidate Rich Ariza signed a petition demanding Mason's right to be on the ballot.

While in New York City, Mason was interviewed on the National Black Radio Network in a panel discussion with independent candidates. Representatives of campus and Black newspapers attended his press conference. Nan Bailey, the SWP congressional candidate for the 16th C.D. in Harlem, recorded a statement on the ballot fight with a Black radio station.

Mason's attorney, Lewis Oliver, was able to get an order from the New York State Supreme Court requiring the Board of Elections to appear in court October 5 and show cause why the SWP presidential candidate should not appear on the New York ballot.

Protests demanding the SWP be put on the ballot immediately should be sent to Thomas Wallace, executive director of the New York Board of Elections, 1 Commerce Plaza, Albany, New York 12260.

Mason is now on the ballot in 23 states and the District of Columbia, after beating back attempts to exclude him in Michigan, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.

Mason shares platform with fighters in Minn.

BY BILL ARTH

ST. PAUL — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, capped two days of campaign activities in the Twin Cities by sharing the platform at a campaign rally with a panel of fighters from different social movements.

Ellie Garcia, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota, chaired the rally. Garcia set the tone for the evening when she pointed out, "They always tell us, 'the meek shall inherit the earth.' I think we should inherit the earth, but the way to do it is by fighting back. Social change is made only through struggle."

Yusef Mgeni, a member of the steering committee of the Twin Cities chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party and director of the Malcolm X Pan African Institute, spoke on the impact of Jesse Jackson's Democratic Party campaign on the struggle for Black rights.

"The candidacy of Jesse Jackson raised a lot of questions during this year's presidential primaries. Unfortunately there were more questions than answers, and now Jesse and Andrew Young and other Negro lapdogs are scurrying around the Mondale campaign trying to get cabinet appointments.

"When they were here in the Twin Cities a couple weeks ago, they put on quite a performance and left town with absolutely nothing. They held hands with Mondale and a lot of brave promises for massive social change were made — off the record. And they were told what planes to leave on, when to get out of town, and to take their hymn books with them. Jesse ran a beautiful campaign, he gave some very flowery speeches, he went to San Francisco and put on an academy-award-winning performance, and what happened? The bottom fell out of the basket, all of the eggs are crushed, and Black people are wandering around in circles wondering, 'This devil or the other one?'" said Mgeni.

George Naylor, a farmer from Iowa and a member of the North American Farm Alliance and the board of directors of the U.S. Farm Association, also spoke.

Naylor described the accelerating crisis facing family farmers under the antifarmer policies of the Reagan administration, and said that many farmers are becoming disillusioned. He went on, "Farmers can remember the Carter administration Soviet embargo on grain. That busted farm prices overnight. They can remember Fritz [Mondale] coming back to Iowa for Jimmy, and suggesting that farmers who didn't support the embargo were unpatriotic. Now it comes out that Ferraro cosponsored a resolution in Congress urging Reagan not to lift the embargo. Both programs boil down to the same solutions that have killed family farm agriculture for the last 30 years — lower prices and more credit."

Naylor urged support for a national grass roots campaign around three demands: a moratorium on farm, home, and business foreclosures; debt restructuring to wipe out some of the debt to make interest payments more reasonable; and parity prices for agricultural products, coupled with a supply management program to encourage soil conservation.

Ruth Voights, a member of Women of All Red Nations, the Sterilization Project, and the Leonard Peltier Support Group, spoke on the cases of American Indian Movement activists Leonard Peltier and Dennis Banks. "Leonard's crime and Dennis' crime is really the same crime for which the Reagan administration invaded Grenada and resolved to punish Nicaragua. These people stand for justice, they stand for self determination, and not profits," she said.

Mason began his speech by pointing to the leading role played by the Indians of Monimbó in the insurrection against the Nicaraguan tyrant Anastasio Somoza. He described his experiences on his recent trip



Militant Socialist presidential candidate Mel Mason campaigned at Ford plant in St. Paul.

to Nicaragua, including his meetings with Ray Hooker, a Black Sandinista leader from the Atlantic Coast. Hooker and Patricia Delgado, another Sandinista leader, have since been kidnapped by CIA-backed counterrevolutionary forces.

Mason described the kidnapping as a "desperate attempt on the part of the U.S. government to terrorize Blacks and Indians to move against the government. I have written a letter to the U.S. government demanding their release."

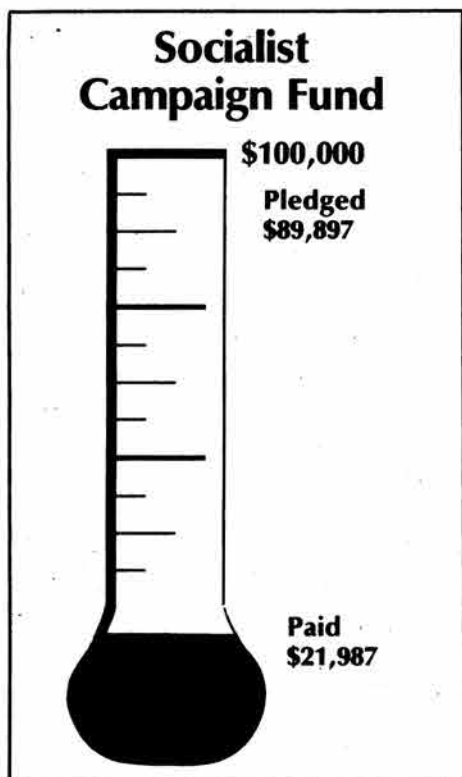
Mason cited the gains of the Nicaraguan

revolution which result from the fact that the government is on the side of the workers and farmers. "That's the kind of government we want here," he said.

While in the Twin Cities, Mason also spoke to a class of 120 students at Minneapolis North High School. This speaking engagement was arranged by supporters of the Mason campaign who are members of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Mason also took his campaign to a local Ford plant, where he spoke with dozens of workers during a shift change.

Special push needed to meet fund goal



To cover the costs of the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, a \$100,000 fund is under way. A big push is needed to collect the remaining \$78,013 by November 6, election day. Contributions can be sent to Socialist Campaign Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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BY YVONNE HAYES

The final weeks of the presidential election campaign provide increased opportunities to get out the program of the socialist campaign. The socialist candidates will be telling the truth about the escalating U.S. war in Central America and the bipartisan attacks of the employers on working people in this country.

To take advantage of these opportunities, a special push is needed to raise an additional \$10,103 in pledges to the \$100,000 Socialist Campaign Fund.

Campaign supporters around the country have begun to organize to meet this challenge. Especially important are the discussions taking place among industrial workers who are contributors about how they can help lead this effort.

Members of the United Auto Workers union who made pledges to the campaign just before the expiration of the UAW contract with General Motors and Ford are talking about raising their pledges by \$180 each. This is the amount of a lump sum payment they will receive as an advance on this year's "profit-sharing" check if the contract is ratified.

These funds will make it possible to reach thousands of auto workers with the ideas of the socialist campaign.

A number of supporters who are coal miners are reviewing their pledges. One miner from St. Louis has just doubled her pledge to the campaign.

These additional contributions will help finance special socialist campaign teams to the coalfields in coming weeks. Several miners faced with layoffs in the wake of their recent contract settlement may be able to participate in these teams.

Socialists who are members of the International Union of Electronic Workers recently met to discuss how they can help boost the campaign fund as well. They agreed to mount an effort to get 100 percent participation from other members of their union who are campaign supporters and to organize themselves to pay their pledges as rapidly as possible.

Similar special efforts by campaign supporters across the country in the next few weeks will help put the \$100,000 goal within reach.

González talks with Ky. workers . . .

BY BOB QUIGLEY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, recently completed a successful three-day campaign swing through the state of Kentucky.

A highlight of her visit was a trip to the picket lines of striking General Motors workers in Bowling Green. González arrived here prior to the announcement of a contract agreement between United Auto Workers (UAW) officials and the owners of GM. The GM plant in Bowling Green was one of 17 designated by UAW officials to be struck during the negotiations.

González explained to the UAW members that her campaign sides with the auto workers against the employers, who are pushing for the maximum concessions from their workforce.

A union official on the picket line commented, "We're not only on strike for ourselves, we're on strike for all working

people. We accepted concessions with our last contract and that set the pace for several other unions. Now we have to set the tone for all labor by not accepting any concessions."

Campaign supporters accompanying González distributed *Militants* and campaign literature to some of the strikers. An official who was familiar with the *Militant* said, "I'm not a socialist. In fact, I'm a liberal Democrat, but that paper does tell the truth about strikes."

González's visit to the picket line capped off a successful tour of the Louisville area. More than 35 supporters greeted González as she spoke to a campaign rally. Other rally speakers included Dave Welters, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, and Peggy Kreiner, candidate for U.S. Congress in the 3rd C.D.

González was also able to meet campaign supporters from the International Chemical Workers Union.

. . . meets Carthan in Mississippi

BY ELIZABETH ZIERS

NEW ORLEANS — "Elections never change who rules. We have never won anything in an election. The working class only gets what it's strong enough to take by fighting."

This was the heart of many of the discussions Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, held with working people in her recent tour of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Communications Workers of America (CWA) activists discussed with González the gains of the civil rights movement which can still be seen here.

González was invited to a party at a CWA leader's home where she gave a talk urging the unionists to use their union to extend solidarity to sisters and brothers internationally, especially to Nicaragua and El Salvador. "You don't want your sons to die fighting workers like us in Nicaragua," she told them.

Tchula 7 leader Eddie Carthan held an evening meeting for González at his home in Mississippi.

Carthan is a former mayor of Tchula. He was the victim of a racist frame-up that drove him from office. He and six other activists known as the Tchula 7 fought a nationwide defense campaign that got the

phony charges of murder against Carthan dropped. Carthan is now a farmer, raising cotton and soybeans.

González was interviewed by the Black weekly *Jackson Advocate*.

Latino antiwar activists in New Orleans asked González whether a Mondale victory wouldn't slow down the U.S. war against Nicaragua and El Salvador. González reminded them that Lyndon Johnson, who won the election in 1964 with the claim he was a "peace" candidate, had bombed North Vietnam immediately after the election.

González' speech at a New Orleans campaign rally attacked the CIA's support to former members of the Nicaraguan National Guard, who have received much attention in the local media.

Derrick Morrison, the SWP's candidate for Congress in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, also spoke at the rally.

Other speakers included Freddie Clements, a leader of the New Orleans fight against cop brutality and Selby Semela, a South African anti-apartheid fighter. "The people of South Africa have decided that the only way to get what you want is to fight, to fight for yourself. We ask people here to keep your government from intervening," said Semela.

Socialist candidates in local races



Socialist Workers Party candidates (left to right, top): Andrew Pulley, Congress, Detroit; Chris Gauvreau, U.S. Senate, Massachusetts; Dave Ferguson, Governor, West Virginia; Ellie Garcia, U.S. Senate, Minnesota; Clare Fraenzl, Congress, Pittsburgh; (bottom) Priscilla Schenk, U.S. Senate, New Jersey; Mark Manning, Congress, Seattle; Kathleen Denny, Congress, Cincinnati; Mark Curtis, Congress, Birmingham; Silvia Zapata, Congress, Los Angeles.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Electioneering by both Democrats and Republicans is reaching a fevered pitch as the November elections draw near.

From the Mondale/Reagan presidential campaigns to the races for local office, working people are being deluged by campaign demagoguery, flag-waving, and Madison Avenue media hype.

There is another campaign in the running this fall, however, which offers a totally different program and perspective. It is the socialist campaign headed up by Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president.

Mason and González are leading a slate of 55 local socialist candidates in 29 states from Massachusetts to California, and from Wisconsin to Alabama.

The local socialist candidates, along with Mason and González, are focusing their fire against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean, government-employer union-busting, and racist and sexist attacks. They are helping to expose the political rule of the Democrats and Republicans for what it really is — the rule over the majority of working people by a tiny handful of super-rich families.

Many of the socialist candidates have traveled or are planning to travel to Nicaragua to learn firsthand about the Sandinista revolution.

Trips to Nicaragua

These visits allow them to better explain why U.S. workers have a stake in defending that revolution against U.S. aggression.

Last July, Priscilla Schenk, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, went to Nicaragua. Her campaign supporters raised the money to send her. Since returning, Schenk, who is a garment worker, has been interviewed by several local newspapers and other media. Campaign supporters have arranged special evenings for coworkers to meet the candidate and discuss her experiences in Nicaragua.

Silvia Zapata, the socialist candidate for Congress in Los Angeles' 25th Congressional District, plans to go to Nicaragua to observe the revolution's first free elections on November 4. Zapata is a Chicana and a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

She is challenging Edward Roybal, the author of a piece of anti-immigrant legislation which is similar to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. Zapata has used her campaign to blast the government's attacks against immigrant workers as one more step toward "whipping up hysteria for the war in Central America and the Caribbean."

In Boston, at a recent pro-Democratic Party "peace" demonstration, members of the Young Socialist Alliance, the revolutionary youth organization supporting the

socialist campaign, aggressively brought the ideas of the socialists to hundreds of young people. Many of these young people wanted to actively fight against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and defend the Nicaraguan revolution. They wanted to discuss how to do this effectively.

Campaign supporters sold \$130 worth of socialist literature, dozens of *Militants* and *Young Socialists*, and distributed more than 1,000 statements by Chris Gauvreau, the socialist candidate for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts. At a socialist open house after the demonstration, one young person expressed interest in joining the YSA.

Solidarity with British miners

For the socialist campaign, international working-class solidarity also extends to the coalfields in Britain, where miners continue to wage a heroic struggle to defend their union. Several local socialist candidates have gone to Britain to meet coal miners there and draw important lessons from that struggle.

Dave Ferguson, the SWP candidate for governor in West Virginia, is a coal miner and a member of the United Mine Workers of America. When Ferguson returned from Britain, he was interviewed by the press and appeared on talk shows. He explained to working people, particularly U.S. coal miners, the lessons of the British miners strike.

British miners, said Ferguson, weren't fooled by promises from the capitalist politicians. "Instead," said Ferguson, "the NUM [National Union of Mineworkers] has reached out and helped organize independent working-class political action — mass picket lines and demonstrations — which are helping to build a social movement of the vast majority who benefit from the fight for jobs before profits."

Campaigning among auto workers

Like the British coal miners, U.S. workers have also faced escalating government-employer attacks. These include take-back contracts and outright union-busting.

Local socialist candidates and campaign supporters in a number of cities were right out at the picket lines and plant gates when 17 United Auto Workers (UAW) union locals were called out on strike before UAW officials negotiated a contract with the owners of General Motors.

Kathleen Denny, the socialist congressional candidate in the 1st C.D. in Cincinnati, appeared in a television debate with her opponents prior to the strike. When she arrived at the GM Norwood plant gate, a number of workers recognized her. One Black woman UAW member shouted out to Denny that she was the best in the debate.

Socialist candidates have also been able

to take their campaigns to their unions. In Birmingham, congressional candidate in the 6th C.D., Mark Curtis, works in a war plant organized by the UAW. Curtis addressed his local meeting and explained the connection between the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and the attacks against workers here at home.

Bob Bruce, the Birmingham campaign director, said workers were open to listening to what Curtis had to say, which stimulated greater interest in the socialist campaign on the shop floor.

Socialists on Michigan ballot

In Michigan, campaign supporters of Andrew Pulley and Helen Meyers, the candidates for Congress in the 1st C.D. and U.S. Senate, recently won a major victory in preventing Michigan authorities from keeping the socialist ticket off the November ballot.

Detroit is a major center for the UAW and the auto industry. Campaign supporters plan to step up their campaigning at auto plants throughout the area in the final weeks of the campaign. "In light of our victory," said Pulley, "we now feel we have an even greater obligation to reach as many auto workers as possible with our ideas."

Socialist campaign supporters are also making a special effort to bring the socialist campaign to coal miners who are discussing the meaning of the contract recently reached with the coal operators and the continued attacks on their union by the employers.

In Pennsylvania, supporters of coal miner Clare Fraenzl's campaign for Congress in the 22nd C.D. mapped out a plan to reach out to miners in the Washington County area south of Pittsburgh. Every Saturday, teams of Fraenzl's supporters will be campaigning and distributing the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*. They plan to cover 16 coal towns in the final weeks of the campaign.

With the government-led attacks against affirmative action, school desegregation,

and the right to abortion, racist and sexist attacks and violence have risen.

Recently, Louis Trejo, a leader of the Chicano community in St. Paul, Minnesota, was brutally attacked by city police. Ellie Garcia, the socialist candidate for U.S. Senate, met with Trejo after the assault to offer her support. Garcia has used her campaign to speak out against cop terror in St. Paul.

In Seattle, police shot and killed Robert Baldwin, a 42-year-old Black worker. Following the killing, supporters of socialist congressional candidate in the 7th C.D., Mark Manning, distributed a statement in the Black community protesting Baldwin's killing and demanding prosecution of the police involved.

The socialist candidates have also been staunch supporters of a woman's right to abortion. In Philadelphia, Seattle, and a number of other cities, candidates and their supporters have joined actions protesting attacks on abortion rights and have denounced right-wing terror attacks on abortion clinics.

Farmers have also responded to the ideas of the socialist campaign. In the last several weeks, a number of protests have been held in Minnesota by farmers demanding an end to bank foreclosures.

Minnesota campaign supporters attended several of the protests, extending support to the farmers and meeting some farmers interested in the socialist campaign.

During the month of October campaign supporters will be right in the middle of the discussions and debates among working people in the final weeks of the campaign. They will bring the ideas of socialism to thousands. Join us in this effort. Call the socialist campaign headquarters nearest you listed in the directory on page 12.

Peter Thierjung is a national youth coordinator of the Mason/González campaign and the National Secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance.

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MASON FOR PRESIDENT • GONZALEZ FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Electrical unionists meet in Pittsburgh

BY DAVE PRINCE

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The 21st Constitutional Convention of the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Technical, Salaried and Machine Workers (IUE) met here September 21-24. The IUE organizes electrical workers in the United States and Puerto Rico. More than 700 delegates and alternates from 338 locals attended.

A small but significant number of the delegates were women. A lesser number were Black or Latino.

The main themes of the convention, presented by IUE President William Bywater in his opening remarks, were: organize the ranks to vote for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro and to "dump Reagan," and establish import quotas to save "U.S. jobs." These ideas were presented by the officials as the keys to solving unemployment, plant closings, and the worsening working conditions faced by the membership.

The convention featured an appearance by Joan Mondale and a taped message from Geraldine Ferraro. A "Vote Mondale-Ferraro" demonstration of delegates was organized to march through downtown Pittsburgh.

The convention showed that the perspective of the IUE officials is to convince the membership that we have a common interest in collaborating with the employers and one of the employers' two parties — the Democrats — to seek a solution to the "common problem" of competition from foreign capitalists. The leadership's strategy of seeking collaboration with the bosses has crippled the IUE's ability to fight back against a growing employer offensive against the union.

Union busting

The employers have dealt big blows to the IUE over the last decade. In 1974 the IUE had 300,000 members. Today the IUE had 175,000 members, a drop of 40 percent.

At General Electric, the base of the IUE and the pattern setter for the electrical industry, 50,000 workers are organized into the IUE and other unions, with 30,000 GE workers unorganized. One delegate reported that eight of the nine GE plants in North Carolina are unorganized. During the last three years, union membership at GE has dropped by 13,000 because of plant closings and layoffs.

Plant closings and owners moving their plants abroad or to nonunion "right to work" states are widespread in the electrical industry. During a discussion on plant closings, delegates who expected their plant to shut down were asked to raise their hands. Fifteen hands went up.

Conditions on the shop floor have deteriorated as well. Workers face line speedup, job combinations, forced overtime, deteriorating safety conditions, and an assault on work rules.

GM and GE contracts

The convention passed resolutions on two important negotiations that are currently in progress — the auto-electric negotiations with General Motors, involving 24,000 workers, and the negotiations for the July 1985 national contract with General Electric. Delegates went on record in support of full solidarity with these workers and a bargaining stance of no concessions. "Job security" and controls on the introduction of new technology are central IUE demands in these negotiations. GM and GE are trying to use new technology as a club against the union — demanding union concessions on work rules and wages

IUEers buy 'Militant'

PITTSBURGH — A booth at the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) convention sponsored by Pathfinder Press featured a number of books and pamphlets on El Salvador, Grenada, and Nicaragua, as well as labor and Black history. More than \$60 worth of literature was sold, including two copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, a collection of speeches by the former Prime Minister of Grenada.

IUE members who are socialists sold 40 copies of the *Militant* to convention participants.

in exchange for so-called job security schemes as new technology is introduced.

An anti-imports, "buy American" campaign is a centerpiece of the IUE officialdom's jobs program. But the IUE cuts its own throat by seeking to protect jobs and working conditions through an alliance with the employers against fellow workers in other countries, who are also under attack.

The IUE's anti-imports program also echoes the chauvinist "America first" campaign advanced by both the Democrats and Republicans as part of the preparation for escalating U.S. military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. The officialdom's anti-imports campaign was unopposed from the convention floor.

Support for Salvadoran unionists

The convention passed a strongly worded resolution calling for the immediate release of 10 leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union, STECEL, who have been imprisoned for four years without charges. The resolution was motivated by District 3 President-elect Sal Ingrassia. As was the case with most of

Continued on Page 9



Militant/John Studer

International Union of Electronic Workers convention. Electrical workers and their union are under heavy attack by employers.

IUE convention: Free Salvadoran unionists!

Below is the text of a resolution passed by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) convention demanding the release of 10 leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union, STECEL. The STECEL campaign is being organized by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. The Committee — a coalition of 21 top union officials — is opposed to U.S. military intervention in El Salvador. IUE President William Bywater is a member of the committee.

At the convention, many delegates were also interested in discussing the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua. Several convention participants, including three local presidents, attended a slide-show presentation by an IUE member who had recently toured Nicaragua and seen the gains that unionists and farmers are making there, gains which are threatened by the U.S.-backed contras.

The continuing turmoil in El Salvador is of great concern to IUE members, as it is to all trade unionists and others around the world who share a commitment to democratic and humanitarian values. The rights of trade unionists in El Salvador are routinely violated through the documented use of violence, murder, and repressive laws.

For the past four years, ten leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union, STECEL, have been imprisoned, though no charges have been filed against them, and no trial has yet taken place. They were arrested in August of 1980, as a result of

their involvement in a national strike called to protest attacks against their union by the Salvadoran government.

During the two years preceding the strike, Salvadoran death squads killed 18 STECEL members and dynamited and machine gunned the union office. The day after these ten men were arrested, the STECEL union was dissolved by a government decree. The Salvadoran government alleges that these men were arrested for so-called "acts of terrorism." In fact, they were arrested for engaging in a protest of last resort.

Since the time of their arrest, the ten STECEL prisoners have been tortured, forced to give false confessions and denied legal counsel. To this day, they have not been brought before a judge, nor have they been given an opportunity to present a defense.

The families of these men live in fear. Many family members have been threatened, harassed, kidnapped, tortured and murdered. Some have sought political asylum in the United States.

Recently, the STECEL leaders have been turned over to the jurisdiction of a military tribunal which is authorized to hold secret trials and use coerced confessions. At the same time, a Salvadoran appeals court has recently cleared a prominent army lieutenant of charges that he ordered the brutal killings of the two American labor advisers, Michael Hammer and Mark Pearlman, and the Salvadoran Land Reform Director, José Viera. Furthermore, the two triggermen who carried out the murders have not even been brought to trial after three years.

This so-called "system of justice" is an

affront to fundamental legal and democratic principles. The continuing detention and prosecution of the ten STECEL members, under these conditions clearly violates basic international human rights standards.

The STECEL prisoners remain among the longest held prisoners in El Salvador. They have little, if any hope for a fair trial and the vindication of their rights without international pressure from trade unionists, religious groups and others concerned about democratic and humane values.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to this 21st Constitutional Convention of the IUE-AFL-CIO:

1. Call upon José Napoleón Duarte, the newly elected President of El Salvador, to demonstrate his stated commitment to justice, democracy, trade union and human rights, by ordering the immediate release of the STECEL prisoners and providing for their safe transport out of El Salvador with their close family members.

2. Call upon the U.S. State Department and/or other appropriate authorities to press for the immediate release of the ten STECEL leaders, and grant refugee visas to these men and their families, since it is clear that their lives and security would be in jeopardy if they were to remain in El Salvador.

3. Urge all IUE members to actively continue to press for the release of the STECEL prisoners by: educating others about the plight of the STECEL leaders, participating in letter writing and petition campaigns directed at appropriate government officials, and by supporting the work of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

'IP' feature on debate over Croatian group

The October 15 issue of *Intercontinental Press* features an article from Australia by Nita Keig on the activities and views of a right-wing Croatian emigré organization in that country, the Croatian Movement for Statehood (HDP), which calls for the dismemberment and overturn of the workers state in Yugoslavia.

Since there are 150,000 people of Yugoslav birth in Australia, many of them Croats, the HDP has a certain political impact in the country and has stirred a sharp debate within the Australian labor movement. Most labor and left activists recognize the reactionary nature of the HDP, but a few do not. Because the HDP is an international organization with branches in other countries, including the United States, this question is of interest beyond Australia.

In assessing the origins and politics of the HDP, Keig provides a valuable overview of the course of the Croatian national movement in Yugoslavia, the revolutionary struggle that overthrew capitalism there

in the 1940s, and the Marxist stance of defending the Yugoslav workers state.

This issue of *IP* also contains an eyewitness report from the Philippines by Deb Shnoorkal titled, "Peasants victimized by military," in the first of a series of reports from that country.

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Teamsters break jurisdiction agreement with UFW

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

For the first time in seven years the Teamsters union has returned to California's fields. On September 10 the union won a representation election at Major Farms of Soledad. Lettuce and celery workers voted 56 to 28 to join the Teamsters.

This signals an end to a pact between the Teamsters and the United Farm Workers (UFW) under which the unions agreed that the UFW would have exclusive rights to organize field workers, while the Teamsters retained jurisdiction over commercial packing sheds, canneries, and mechanized and transport workers.

The pact was agreed to in 1977 following a period of open conflict between the two unions. For years the overwhelmingly Chicano and Mexican UFW had been engaged in a bitter battle against the powerful agricultural growers, who have exploited farm workers unmercifully for decades. The growers paid low wages, imposed harsh and unhealthy conditions, and resisted union organizing efforts. Through a combination of field organizing, backed by nationwide grape and lettuce boycotts in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the UFW began to win a measure of human dignity for farm workers.

In the mid-1970s the Teamsters began a raiding operation against the UFW in California. The Teamster campaign included violence and intimidation aimed at UFW organizers and farm workers sympathetic to *la causa*. These efforts gave valuable assistance to the fiercely antiunion agricultural employers at a time when they most needed it. The Teamsters received tacit support and at times covert assistance from the growers for the anti-UFW campaign.

George Meany, the longtime bureaucratic chief of the AFL-CIO, termed the Teamster war against the UFW "the most vicious, strikebreaking, union-busting effort I've seen in my lifetime on the part of the Teamsters." The national labor federation donated \$1.6 million dollars to the UFW to aid the fight against the Teamster raids.

Over time pressure was brought to bear on the Teamsters, which led to the 1977 agreement that the Teamsters would stop raiding the fields. The accord was renewed in 1982 but expired again last March. At that time the Teamsters declined to continue it.

The UFW took a different stand. Union President César Chávez told the September UFW convention that the UFW proposal to the Teamsters stated, "the just-expired pact had put an end to years of strife during which both unions put a lot of time, money, and resources into fighting each other through litigation, public relations, and counter-organizing. We said, 'Thanks to the pact, both organizations have been able to put their efforts into more worthwhile channels.'"

However, the Teamsters rejected the UFW's renewal proposal, and Chavez told the convention, "Our present understanding... is that the Teamsters are coming back to try and organize farm workers."

This new threat to the UFW comes at a dangerous time. The union has been under relentless assault by the growers, who are backed by the state government. California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act, a law passed at the height of the UFW's success in 1975, has been badly evaded. This law for the first time recognized bargaining rights for California's farm workers — a

right still denied farm workers in other states. The National Labor Relations Act, adopted in the early 1930s, does not apply to farm workers.

In 1983 the number of uninvestigated charges by farm workers against growers more than doubled to over 1,000. The number of complaints against growers filed by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board general counsel has been cut in half. More than 6,300 farm workers are owed over \$72 million by the employers and are still waiting for their money.

More than 36,000 workers who have voted for UFW representation in secret ballot elections are still waiting for the growers to sign contracts. "Many of them," Chavez told the union convention, "have been fired for supporting the union. Many others have lost their jobs because growers illegally changed the names of their companies to avoid signing a contract."

Today the UFW holds contracts with only 181 companies covering some 40,000 of the 250,000 farm workers in California.

The Teamsters claim that their new organizing efforts are not aimed at renewing warfare against the UFW. Teamster business agent Peter Maturino said, after the Major Farms election, "We're here to organize the unorganized. We're not here to raid the UFW or to cause problems."

However, the record of Teamster attacks on the UFW is a long one, and the Teamster officialdom's refusal to accept the UFW offer to renew the 1977 agreement should be seen as a dangerous blow.

Despite the severe attacks it has suffered, the UFW — a vital conquest of the exploited farm workers — is far from being crushed. Further battles against the growers, and their sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters, can be expected.

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Militant José G. Pérez

In 1960s and '70s, farm workers fought for right to be represented by United Farm Workers union.

Nicaragua tour members to speak at unions

BY BECKY ELLIS

PORTLAND, Oregon — "We found a powerful, diverse, and free labor movement in Nicaragua. Even the most strident critics of the government admitted that unions had grown ten-fold since the 1979 defeat of Somoza," declared Nita Brueggeman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), Pacific Northwest Joint Board, at a press conference here September 18.

"Every worker, every unionist we spoke with, strongly opposed U.S. attacks against their country," said Roger Auerbach, past president of the Oregon Federation of Teachers. "The greatest threat to freedom and democracy in Nicaragua is the policy of Ronald Reagan," he said.

Brueggeman and Auerbach were the Oregon representatives on a 12-person, West Coast trade union delegation to Nicaragua. The unionists returned September 16 from their fact-finding investigation of the state of that nation's trade union movement and human rights situation.

The labor officials cited Nicaragua's current presidential election campaign as one of many democratic forums which Nicaragua's working people are able to utilize. They noted the tremendous gains in health, education, and working conditions since 1979, when Nicaragua's workers and peasants, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front, overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

"Reagan is just plain wrong on Nicaragua," said Brueggeman. "Working people here are bearing the burden of his war drive with our taxes, lost jobs and services, and soon with the lives of our youth." The unionists called on the national AFL-CIO to break with Reagan's antiunion, prowar policy against Nicaragua.

The tour was sponsored by the West Coast Labor Network on Central America. Other unionists participating in the tour were George Popyack, international vice-president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Sumi Haru, recording secretary, Screen Actors Guild National Board; Armado David, AFSCME organizer, and international chair of the Labor Task Force on the Philippines; Sandra Cooper-Morgan, statewide president, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 535; Luisa Blue, president, SEIU Local 390/

400; Teri Mast, president, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 37; Juan Lombard, president, SEIU Local 616; Dena Kanner, president, AFSCME Local 3235; Ray Baeza, civil and human rights chair, SEIU Local 715; and Meta Mendel Reyes, field representative, SEIU Local 715.

While in Nicaragua, the U.S. unionists met with national union leaders from the Sandinista Workers Federation, Rural Workers Federation, Health Workers Federation, Teachers Association, Public Workers Union, Journalists Union, United Workers Federation, Nicaraguan Workers Federation, and the Union of Theater Artists.

Visits were made to the port of Corinto, Victoria Brewery, TEXNICA (a textile factory), and other workites.

The delegation also met with representatives of the Supreme Electoral Council and the Nicaraguan Women's Association in Matagalpa.

While still in Managua, the entire delegation made a statement to the international press which ended with two demands:

"We call on the U.S. government to stop its interference in the affairs of Nicaragua, including all forms of U.S. military intervention, aid to the contras, and the U.S. economic blockade of the country.

"We call on trade unions in the U.S. to

develop friendly relations with the labor movement of Nicaragua and to support the efforts of Nicaraguan workers to rebuild their country and defend it from U.S. attack."

In addition to the news conference, Brueggeman and Auerbach have made several radio and television tapes.

They will be reporting to the Multnomah County Labor Council. They also have invitations to speak to other union locals, including the Painters, Carpenters, Masons, Machinists, AFSCME, Letter Carriers, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Laborers, ACTWU, Bakers, Food and Commercial Workers, Teachers, Electrical Workers, and TV and Radio Artists.

On October 11 they will speak to a citywide gathering sponsored by the Portland Committee on Central America and the Caribbean and cosponsored by ACTWU, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and National Association of Letter Carriers Local 82.

The entire delegation will issue a comprehensive written report and audio-visual materials soon.

Brueggeman and Auerbach are available for reports to other union bodies. For more information contact the Portland Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean, P.O. Box 6443, Portland, Ore. 97228.



Maurice Bishop Speaks

A collection of more than 20 major interviews with and speeches by the slain leader of the Grenada revolution.

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400 pp., \$6.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.

Planned Parenthood: gov't., church spur antiabortion violence

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — The New York City chapter of Planned Parenthood held a press conference here on September 28 to condemn the escalating national campaign of violent attacks against abortion clinics and women seeking abortions.

Alfred Moran, the executive director of the chapter, said, "The church, antiabortion, and presidential rhetoric on the abortion issue has created a climate that incites terrorism — acts of violence that repeatedly endanger the lives of clinic staff and clients."

Moran pointed to the 19 abortion clinics that were fire bombed or bombed so far this year, compared with four in 1983. He pointed to the recent examples of the fire bombing of Planned Parenthood Centers in Annapolis, Maryland, and Atlanta. This violence, he said, "raises some fundamental questions about the real goals of the so-called right-to-life movement."

Moran said that the overall number of violent incidents, including bombings, arson, trespassing, and vandalism, increased from 33 in 1982 to 60 in 1983. So far this year there have been 107 attacks.

In addition, women trying to exercise their right to a safe, legal abortion have been subjected to harassment, intimidation, and abuse.

Moran said that opponents of abortion rights have stolen medical records of women seeking abortions, and taken their car license plate numbers to trace them and harass them. He cited instances of women seeking abortions who have received threatening phone calls.

Moran charged that the "heated rhetoric" of Reagan and Archbishop John O'Connor of New York has contributed to antiabortion violence.

"When the president talks about baby killers, and when the archbishop talks about the Holocaust, they incite people who are less fully stable to violence," Moran said. "To take the position that American women who are having abortions are comparable to the people who perpetrated the Holocaust is frightening, and I think it's irresponsible," he said.

Moran was referring to a statement made by O'Connor last March in a television interview. "I always compare the killing of 4,000 babies a day in the United States, unborn babies, to the Holocaust."

Moran pointed out that a majority of people support legalized abortion.

Pa. coal miners hit hard by new shutdowns

BY KIPP DAWSON

PITTSBURGH — Thousands of members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) who were working on the last day of the just-expired UMWA-BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators Association) contract lost their jobs before the new contract even went into effect October 1.

The headline on the September 28 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* read, "UMW approving pact as U.S.S. closes nine mines." But that only told part of the story. U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, and several other coal operators suddenly slammed the portal gates shut on thousands of UMWA members in Districts 4 and 5 in Pennsylvania and Districts 17 and 29 in southern West Virginia.

On September 30, nearly 1,000 of us — members of UMWA Local 1197 — were working at Bethlehem's 84-Complex in Washington County, Pennsylvania. When we came out of the mine after midnight shift Friday, September 28, the blackboard that tells us our fate read, "Work Monday." But before Monday came we got phone calls from Bethlehem to say that all but some 42 of us were laid-off "indefinitely."

Just down the road, U.S. Steel's Maple Creek mine shut the doors on its 790 UMWA miners. In the meantime, several small mines that are not a part of the BCOA either shut their doors on UMWA members, or forced them to strike by not signing the UMWA-BCOA contract.

District 5 has gone from nearly 4,000 working members two years ago to less than 1,000 today. Among those still working are 270 miners at Bethlehem's Marianna mine. There a shutdown and realignment (the mine was closed and reopened with a sharply reduced workforce) two years ago has resulted in the remaining miners — just over half the previous workforce — loading more coal than the full workforce had. Speedup, overtime (doubling out as it's known among miners) and safety problems are the order of the day. Bethlehem says Marianna is their model mine.

Just to our south, UMWA District 4 was hit hard too, with about 2,000 new layoffs, leaving only about 1,400 UMWA miners working. The Gateway mine laid off about 400, Nemacolin over 300, and Isabella around 200. U.S. Steel alone laid off 2,300 miners in Pennsylvania and West Virginia — all just as the old contract expired and the new one went into effect.

The U.S. Steel shutdowns hit southern West Virginia, the heart of the UMWA, the worst. In Districts 17 and 29, many mines were previously shut down. But as of this week 2,000 more miners are laid off there, mainly as a result of U.S. Steel's shutdown of seven mines in McDowell and Wyoming counties, two coal preparation plants, and the Gary District maintenance facility. District 17 has gone from 26,000 working miners two years ago to less than 11,000. There too, rumors of more shutdowns abound.

Sandwiched between these two areas, UMWA's District 31 in northern West Virginia has not yet been hit by this shutdown-layoff wave, but previous layoffs have idled hundreds of Consolidation Coal and Bethlehem miners. Rumors of more layoffs are flying through both that district and UMWA District 2 in central Pennsylvania. In District 2, Mine 33 — one of the



LNS/Jeffrey Blankfort

Miners approved new contract, but massive layoffs have led to new uneasiness in coalfields about operators' plans.

few working Bethlehem mines — went to a four-day work week this week.

These layoffs affect more than just the miners who no longer have jobs. The drastic reduction of the UMWA workforce and dues base in the affected UMWA districts means probable cuts in union services to working miners. This happens just as the

owners of Consolidation Coal are moving forward with their plan to try to open a big new mine here, the Bailey mine, as the first large nonunion underground mine in the area. The operators here have made it clear that they intend to do all they can to make the Marianna-type "realign and press for coal" process the wave of the future for

those mines still working. Thus the contract settled very little for miners in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, where big challenges now face the UMWA.

Kipp Dawson is a laid-off UMWA member at Bethlehem's 84-Complex mine in Pennsylvania.

Layoffs sweep mines as pact passes

Continued from front page

Consolidation Coal Co. chief executive Bobby Brown, who served as the BCOA's chief negotiator, broke his silence after the UMWA voting results were in. "It's all upbeat," said Brown. "The most positive thing we start with is 80 months of stability."

UMWA President Trumka said the settlement should "erase any lingering doubts" about the union's willingness to help the employers out of the industry's economic slump.

But it is clear from the sweeping layoffs and shutdowns that the coal operators plan to "enhance" their competitive position at the expense of coal miners.

At a September 21 news conference Trumka was asked if the union feared new layoffs as the result of large stockpiles of coal accumulated in anticipation of a strike. The UMWA president admitted that this possibility existed but called on the corporations to "use good judgement," and not punish the union for agreeing to a settlement without a strike.

While Brown hailed "the discipline showed by the UMWA," the operators have wasted no time in showing their understanding of "stability" in the mines. It does not include job stability for miners.

The operators have decided to back off from the sharp confrontation with the UMWA that a strike would have involved. But the companies are continuing their war on the union on their own terms: increased speedup, unemployment, and attacks on mine safety and union rights.

Over the last few years the use of court injunctions has greatly reduced the miners' right to strike and get immediate action on their grievances. Arbitrators have continued to rule against the union and in favor of the companies. These "creeping concessions" are a concern for miners.

Many are also carefully watching what is

happening to auto and steel workers as well as others. Awareness is growing about what British miners are confronting in their almost seven-month-long strike against mine shutdowns.

It is the knowledge that their war with the coal operators is far from over and that major battles are yet to come that leaves miners with a feeling of uneasiness about what the future holds.

Kathy Mickells is a working UMWA member employed by U.S. Steel in Pennsylvania.

Colorado miners strike Empire Energy

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

CRAIG, Colo. — Local 1799 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) was forced out on strike here on August 28 by Empire Energy, a subsidiary of the Amoco energy trust.

The strike is solid and no coal is being mined, but some surface construction work by a nonunion subcontractor goes on. This particularly rankles the miners, since only a few years ago the UMWA organized all construction work at this and other mines it had under contract.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Tony Grajeda, president of Local 1799, speculated that the construction work was "the reason the company offered us a lousy contract. This way we're on strike while they do this work they would have had to shut down for anyway, but they don't have to pay unemployment benefits."

The 183 members of Local 1799 maintain their picket lines 24 hours a day. Their morale is high. Picket captain Terry Pankey told the *Militant* that miners and other working people in the area support the strike. While the company has not attempted to reopen the mine, on September 13 a management employee reportedly tried to run over a picket at the mine entrance.

Local 1799 is seeking improvements in wages and benefits. The company is trying to cut back on medical benefits and has made minimal offers on wages. Empire has sought to bring in an arbitrator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Ser-

vice, but Local 1799 has rejected this as unnecessary and has called on the company to negotiate directly. No talks are going on.

While safety is not a direct issue in the strike, it's "always a battle," said Grajeda. The Empire mine is underground, while most coal in this region is strip-mined. Last year one miner died and another was critically injured in a roof cave-in.

W. Va. agency refuses to act to prevent layoffs of coal miners

West Virginia's Public Service Commission (PSC) labeled the American Electric Power (AEP) Co.'s handling of layoffs at coal mines in the state "human callousness, if not corporate mismanagement." However, it also declared that it has no right to interfere in the proposed sale of local coal mines that resulted in the layoffs.

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) had asked the PSC to review the proposed sale of AEP's Cedar Coal Co. and Central Appalachian Coal Co. to NuEast Mining Corp. In July AEP announced that at least 800 miners would be laid off and the two mines closed to carry out work to prepare the mines for sale. This announcement came in the midst of a vacation period for miners.

The UMWA is concerned that NuEast may try to subcontract or lease the mines to nonunion operators.

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W. Va. women miners lose 'peephole' suit

BY LIZ SOMMERS

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — On September 28 a three-woman, three-man jury cleared Pittston Coal Co. of any charges that foremen at the Number 2 mine in Sabine, West Virginia, had invaded the privacy of seven women miners.

The \$8.8 million suit charged that the foremen lifted the ceiling tiles in their bath house, adjacent to the women's bath house, and looked over a partial wall dividing the two, viewing the women as they showered. The women also charged that this invasion of their privacy was part of a broader campaign of sexual harassment and discrimination on the job. The latter charge remains unresolved.

The women who sued Pittston are 7 of 15 women who are former or current miners at Pittston's Ranger Fuel Beckley Number 2 mine at Sabine. The women had been targets of extreme forms of sexual harassment fostered by the coal operators. Testimony at the trial confirmed that one foreman had told another that one of the women miners was a "sorry whore," and that he should "work her hard."

On one occasion one of the women miners was "greased" from head to toe, a humiliating, frightening experience. In another incident one of the women testified that male contraceptives had been hidden in her lunch bucket.

The May issue of the United Mine Workers Journal reported favorably on the fact that these UMW members sued Pittston. The coal union paper reported that UMW Pres. Richard Trumka had told a 1983 conference of women miners, "We will not stand idly by while coal operators try to divide our union over the issue of sexual harassment."

This stance encouraged supporters of women's rights. Unfortunately, however, local union officials at the Sabine mine testified for the company.

The suit, filed in February 1983, was based on incidents surrounding a grievance previously filed by the plaintiffs to get the partial walls dividing the foremen's and women's bath house raised, and to add an additional lock to the women's bath house door to protect the women from being walked in on, as had often happened.

In addition, an investigation by the union took place at the request of the plaintiffs to determine if the invasion of privacy had occurred.

Four questions

The trial began September 18 in U.S. district court in Beckley before Judge Elizabeth Hallanan. Testimony revolved around four main questions. Did scuff marks on the wall above a urinal and smudge marks on the ceiling tiles above that prove the invasion of privacy had occurred? Did Pittston have an affirmative action plan, an equal opportunity employment policy, and if so, was it enforced? Were any of the plaintiffs sexually harassed or discriminated against on the job? What role did the grievance and investigation play in having the suit filed?

The plaintiffs testified that they had been propositioned by bosses and had been

given the dirtiest, most undesirable jobs when they refused to give sexual favors. They were often sent to the sump (an area where water is pumped from the mine — miners stand in knee-deep water and shovel mud). The women testified that obscene graffiti and pictures in and around the mine were labeled with the names of the women miners. Testimony was also given on the investigation, and two photographs were submitted that showed finger print smudges on the ceiling tiles.

Harassment and discrimination

A union brother from the Sabine mine corroborated the plaintiff's charges concerning harassment and discrimination. He had heard and seen a boss continually ask one of the plaintiffs to go out with him, despite her clear refusal.

Frank Wayman, a former electrical foreman, testified for the plaintiffs that he caught a foreman peeping at the women. The company tried to discredit Wayman's testimony by producing three bosses and a union man to say that Wayman had testified out of spite for the company because he was not recalled after layoff.

The union local's vice-president and safety committeeman testified for the company and attributed the smudge marks to general mine grime. It was later pointed out that there were no smudge marks similar to these anywhere else in the bath house. The safety committeeman testified that he saw no smudge marks at all, even after being presented with on-site photographs.

IUE meets in Pittsburgh

Continued from Page 6

the more than 60 resolutions presented at the convention, there was no discussion from the floor, but many delegates took literature on the STECEL case published by the National Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. Several dozen signed a mailing list requesting more information.

The resolution (reprinted elsewhere on this page) urges IUE members and locals to press for the release of the STECEL prisoners and to support the work of the National Labor Committee.

A number of delegates also expressed their solidarity with the striking British coal miners. Copies of *The Miner*, the British National Union of Mineworkers newspaper, were available at one of the booths, and \$37 in individual contributions was collected.

Black rights, women's rights

The convention reaffirmed the IUE's support for women's rights and Black rights in society and the job. The IUE supported the August 27, 1983, March on Washington for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom.

A large percentage of the IUE membership is composed of women — 40 percent. The convention passed resolutions reaffirming support for the Equal Rights Amendment, for affirmative action pro-

George Strong, former superintendent of training, was in charge of the bulletin boards at the mine and testified that Pittston's equal opportunity policy was posted on the board. He also produced three thick bound notebooks as being the company's affirmative action plan. On cross-examination, however, Strong admitted that he had viewed the bound manuals for the first time only a few days before the trial!

Company witnesses

Other company witnesses included three other women miners who testified that they had never been harassed or discriminated against. However, these women all work on a different shift than the plaintiffs.

Numerous bosses denied that they had been a part of the harassment or discrimination against the plaintiffs. Two mine superintendents claimed that harassment and discrimination had never been, is not, nor will ever be permitted at Pittston.

The final aspect of the trial pertained to the mental impact the invasion of privacy has had on the women. A psychiatrist testifying for the women stated that they suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders impairing their life styles and abilities to function in society or at work. A psychiatrist testifying for Pittston disputed this.

Throughout the trial, several women miners, along with family and friends, came to the courtroom. Messages of support came in from other women miners and organizations such as the Coal Employment Project (CEP — an organization that



helps women get and keep mining jobs) and Charleston National Organization for Women (NOW). Coverage of the trial was front-page news locally.

Although the verdict was obviously a disappointment to these seven brave women and their supporters, the harassment and discrimination charges are yet to be settled. Judge Hallanan will rule on whether Pittston violated the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sexual harassment and discrimination.

Upon hearing of the verdict, Betty Jean Hall, director of the CEP, said, "I'm very disappointed. But on the other hand, it was a very important case in that it will make people more hesitant to let this type of thing get by. These women wanted to put a stop to invasion of privacy in the Pittston mine and other mines in the country."

Antiwar conference held in Cleveland

BY OMARI MUSA

CLEVELAND — Some 300 people attended a conference here September 14-16 against U.S. military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Conference organizers had projected the gathering as a broad, national conference, with significant labor participation, that would issue an authoritative call for nationwide antiwar actions. The meeting turned out to be very narrow in composition, however.

Several local and regional labor officials and union staff members initially endorsed the conference, but support for the gathering faded as it drew closer. It became clear that no significant union forces were involved in organizing the conference, nor were figures from Black and Latino organizations.

Nonetheless, some Central America solidarity activists participated in the conference and several prominent figures in the struggle against U.S. intervention attended as guest speakers. These included Dave Dyson, secretary of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador; Ron Weisen, president of United Steelworkers Local 1397; Francisco Acosta, North American representative of FENASTRAS, a Salvadoran labor federation; and Guillermo de Paz, a delegate of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

The major role at the conference was played by several small sects. These included the Internationalist Workers Party; Marxist-Leninist Party, USA; Socialist Action; International Socialists; Fourth Internationalist Tendency; Revolutionary Workers League; and Trotskyist Organization.

Right up to the eve of the conference, its organizers were still promising that busloads of participants, including trade unionists, would be coming from several cities. These never materialized. Nonetheless, the conference organizers conducted the meeting as though significant forces from the labor movement were participating.

A call for nationwide demonstrations next spring was adopted. It is based on a proposal from the conference organizing committee headed by Jerry Gordon, a leader of the anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1970s.

grams, and for building the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). A booth sponsored by the Pittsburgh chapter of CLUW received a lot of attention from women delegates. The convention also went on record against sexual harassment of women workers. Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women, was a featured speaker.

About 75 percent of the delegates — men and women — attended a women's breakfast at which CLUW President Joyce Miller was the keynote speaker. Also attending the breakfast were 35 Black workers, mostly women, who had traveled by bus to the convention from Local 698 in Mississippi. Many had been participants in the civil rights movement. The delegation was given a special introduction at the breakfast.

No mention was made of the antilabor, anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli bill which is now before Congress. Informally, Mexican and Chicano delegates from IUE District 11, which includes the Southwest, talked about the increase in workplace raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). INS raids have been used to break organizing drives as well as to weaken the union in organized shops.

Organizing the unorganized

The convention went on record in support of organizing the unorganized. However, despite the step taken by the IUE to begin organizing 5,000 salaried technicians at Raytheon in Massachusetts, IUE organizing efforts remain minimal and mostly confined to small nonelectrical plants. A large section of the electrical industry remains unorganized.

The delegates approved a \$2.50-a-month increase in dues after a debate on the convention floor. About 5 percent of the delegates voted against the increase. The proposal now has to be approved by the locals before it can be implemented.

The IUE officials argued that the union would go under without an increase to compensate for the 40 percent membership loss over the last 10 years.

Others argued against the increase, stating that more cuts should be made in the IUE's staff and income increased through organizing new members.

The agenda also included the election of officers. William Bywater was elected president by the delegates and Ed Fire, secretary treasurer.

Dave Prince is a member of IUE Local 401.

Marroquín talks to IUE delegates

BY DEAN PEOPLES

PITTSBURGH — Héctor Marroquín may be on the "enemies" list of the bosses and their government, but he got a very friendly reception at the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) convention.

Marroquín is an undocumented worker from Mexico that the government has been trying to deport for seven years because he's an opponent of the U.S. war in Central America and a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Marroquín has gained broad support among unionists, and fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women for his struggle against deportation. Right now, he is criss-crossing the country, winning support for his fight to obtain a permanent residence visa.

About 100 delegates from IUE locals all over the country — including many local presidents and officers — signed petitions supporting Marroquín's right to live and

work in the United States.

Marroquín explained why he views the government's efforts to deport him not just as an attack on his personal political rights, but as an attack on all immigrant workers, and on organized labor.

Several of the delegates signing Marroquín's petition were from San Antonio, Los Angeles, and other areas of the Southwest where the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is notorious for its brutality against immigrant workers. Some of these delegates related their own experiences of how the INS has impeded organizing drives by raiding shops the union was trying to organize and by harassing Latino workers suspected of being "illegal aliens."

Some of these delegates from locals in the Southwest invited Marroquín to meet with them when he visits that area of the country on the next leg of his speaking tour.

'Like a funeral': Illinois farm family loses its land

BY KIM KLEINMAN

GREENVILLE, Ill. — "It's like a funeral," said Illinois American Agriculture Movement (AAM) leader Harry Renken in the lobby of the Bond County Courthouse here.

He was describing the forced sheriff's sale of seven parcels of land, totaling nearly 300 acres, belonging to Jean LaFrance.

"One farmer is driven off the land every six minutes. By 10:30 a.m. on September 18, LaFrance became one of them.

LaFrance, a popular figure in the farm movement in Illinois, was celebrated in *American Farmer* magazine in 1980 as part of "an American dream family." A year later he was in the debt that finally drove him out of farming.

The farm debt is currently \$215 billion. Individual debts, like LaFrance's \$364,000, drive 1 percent of family farmers off the land every month.

A dozen Illinois farm leaders from AAM, Inc., and the Illinois Farm Alliance witnessed LaFrance's \$500,000 farm go for \$150,000 to the Illinois Production Credit Association, which placed the only bid.

Socialist auto workers and coal miners were at the sale to show their solidarity with LaFrance, learn more about the farm crisis, and spread the socialist campaign's proposals for the problems facing family farmers.

Mel Mason and Andrea González,

Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, call for stopping farm foreclosures; for a moratorium on all debts; and for extending low-interest credit for machinery, seed, fertilizer, and other farming necessities. They call for guaranteeing family farmers an income adequate to meet costs of production and sustain a decent living.

And they call for a workers and farmers government, which would replace the rule of the bankers and employers with rule by the exploited majority of society.

After the sale, many returned to LaFrance's farm to offer their support to him, his wife Claudette, and their three children.

LaFrance told friends and TV reporters of his plans for the future. "There's no future in the family farm," he said, "until the government does something. It's the farm policy. I'm looking for a position with some company. I have put in many applications."

Despite the many skills he used in farming, such as operating heavy machinery, welding, and construction, the employers are leery of hiring him because he does not have previous employers.

James Milligan of Illinois AAM said, "It makes me angry when I have to come to these things. Jean's not a bad farmer. It's the economy. He's innocent."

"My farm is 200 miles from here," commented Tom Curl, also of Illinois AAM, "but this kind of thing hurts the value of my land, too."

Farmers' meeting seeks way to fight foreclosures, debt

BY JOHN STAGGS

MADRID, Iowa — Last year was bad. But for many farmers, 1984 is worse. More farmers are being forced off the land because they can't make the payments on their debt.

This was the common theme in all the area reports given at the September 1-2 Grassroots Campaign to Save Our Farms and Communities meeting called by the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA). The meeting here was attended by more than 75 farmers and supporters. They came from 14 states and Canada.

It was reported that a survey of farmers in Wisconsin found that 36 percent felt they would be forced off their farms in five years, and 11 percent said this was their last year.

In Iowa and Missouri, direct action by farmers, with help from United Auto Workers members in Iowa, had led to successful "penny auctions" that saved many bankrupt farmers' machinery from being auctioned off.

The Iowa Farm Unity Coalition held a statewide congress that decided to continue direct protest action to preserve farms and to participate in electoral action. The electoral orientation proposed is in the framework of the Democratic Party. For example, the coalition got the Iowa Democratic Party to adopt a plank in its platform stating support to farmers. The state party took it to the national Democratic Party

convention in San Francisco where it was rejected.

Reports to the NAFA meeting were also heard from Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Montana, Kentucky, and Nebraska.

A special report was heard from Jean-Claude Boucher, hog farmer from St. Christine, Quebec, Canada. Boucher had just come off a 23-day hunger strike aimed at getting credit concessions from the government.

Conference participants agreed to focus on two main demands for their actions.

One was a total moratorium on foreclosures, liquidations, and repossessions of farms, homes, or small businesses until acceptable debt restructuring is implemented, and that guidelines for repayment of debts should stipulate that repayments are made only after a "fair standard of living" is achieved.

The other demand generally agreed upon was 100 percent parity pricing through a government loan program combined with supply management. (Parity is a program for adjusting prices to expenses based on an index derived from the years 1910-14.)

Several strategies for achieving these demands were discussed. They included direct action to defend farmers by stopping foreclosures and electoral pressure to win an acceptable farm bill. Participants felt that to be successful, a coalition broader than farmers must be built. Ideas on this varied from a general rural-urban coalition to specific farmers' organization-union collaboration on action proposals. The most popular idea was to have protests against Secretary of Agriculture John Block everywhere he speaks.

Carol Hodne reported that the NAFA staff will issue press statements from the conference and coordinate activities from each state as well as continue their ongoing activities. This includes putting out their newspaper, *North American Farmer*, and organizing tours abroad. Two tours were announced. One is to France and Holland, where the problems family farmers face are similar to those of U.S. farmers. The other is to Nicaragua, where the government is implementing some real solutions to the problems facing farmers.



Illinois farmers Jean and Claudette LaFrance talk to press after their farm was sold off. Militant/Tony Dutrow

Why the Mondale program won't aid working farmer

Continued from back page

gill and other grain traders that the government would reimburse their grain contracts with the Soviet Union. The contracts with 22 exporters were estimated to be worth \$2.25 billion. On top of this merchants changed the destination of 30 percent of their orders from "unknown" to the "Soviet Union" in order to cash in on the government reimbursements. The Department of Agriculture didn't make any attempt to determine whether or not those orders were ever intended to be shipped to the Soviet Union, but the government was committed to pay them anyway.

When some of the truth about the big benefits the giant international traders were raking off began to leak out, some government officials attempted to press for fuller disclosure of grain contracts. But they were told to cool it by Bergland, who argued that information revealing which firms held what contracts was "market sensitive" and would unfairly compromise their trading positions.

The failure of the Carter-Mondale policies to provide relief to working farmers exacerbated their worsening situation and their indebtedness. The total debt held by farmers reached unprecedented heights. This helped set the stage for the situation under the Reagan administration, which has pushed the FmHA to foreclose on debt-burdened farmers considered poor credit risks.

Mondale has not taken his distance at all from the overall nature of the Carter-Mondale farm policy.

Mondale's basic approach is the same as Reagan's — help the capitalist farms, bankers, food distributors, and processors. If working farmers can't make it, they are clearly not good businessmen and deserve to go under.

The proposals that Mondale has made during his present election campaign have been vague for the most part, as is typically the case with campaign rhetoric.

The Democratic Party platform, for example, has a bare bones section affirming the party's commitment to "family farm enterprises whose primary business is farming or ranching."

But no plank is included showing what this means concretely. Actually the formula itself is very sweeping because it can include both exploiting capitalist family farmers who hire wage labor and exploited family farmers who depend only on the labor of family members.

Take Secretary of Agriculture John Block, for example. The work on his farm is not just done by family members but by more than a half-dozen hired workers. Block has also got some lucrative real estate deals going on the side.

\$4 billion slash

His situation sharply contrasts with that of hundreds of thousands of family farmers who are so head over heels in debt they are about to lose their farms. Mondale's record shows clearly which category will get his undivided attention.

Mondale's most specific proposals came

as part of the austerity plan he announced September 10. There he called for a \$4 billion cut in farm programs, mainly in price supports. He contends that the saving can be made up by better management. But bad management is not the problem with the farm programs. It's who they benefit that is.

Mondale has responded to Reagan's promises of concessions to debt-burdened farmers, made during the last stretch of the campaign, with his own vote-catching pledges.

Here Mondale simply ups the ante a touch without proposing anything substantially different. His biggest difference is the call for a 180-day moratorium on foreclosures of farmers who cannot repay their federal loans.

But this is still only band-aid-style help. With the shape many farmers are in, they will not be able to repay their loans, even in 180 days, especially if the government continues to refuse sufficient price supports for their commodities.

NAFA makes own proposal

The North American Farm Alliance (NAFA) at a meeting September 1-2 made a different proposal. It called for "no forced liquidations, foreclosures or repossessions on farm, home, and small businesses until a debt restructuring program is implemented."

Debt restructuring schedules, NAFA urges, must "be based on ability to pay, allowing for true costs of production at a fair standard of living." It also said repayments had to take into account problems family farm owner-operators face due to "economic conditions beyond their control."

In order to deal with lower land values now compared to several years ago, when many farmers secured loans with their land as collateral, NAFA calls for "reduction of principal to current market value of the secured property and refinancing at affordable rates on long-term payment schedules."

These demands, which express the sentiments of tens of thousands of working families, show how feeble Mondale's campaign promises are.

In another campaign ploy, the Democratic hopeful has called for the expansion of U.S. food sales overseas. "We need to sell more food and less guns," he told an Iowa audience.

This sentiment sounds good until you learn that Mondale's proposal for the military budget is to increase it by 3 to 4 percent after inflation.

He has also made it clear that if elected he intends to continue providing military aid to the dictatorship in El Salvador and keep up the struggle against the revolutionary government in Nicaragua. Mondale talks peace when he thinks that is what his audience wants to hear, but is committed to carrying out war in the interests of big business.

For working farmers, choosing between Reagan and Mondale is about like choosing between a tornado and a swarm of locusts. Conditions for farmers will get worse either way.

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.

Ortega to U.S. supporters: help spread truth

Urges trips to Nicaragua

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK — Opponents of the U.S. war against Nicaragua should help get out the truth about the Sandinista revolution and urge U.S. citizens to visit Nicaragua, said Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan government junta, at a meeting here October 1.

The Sandinista leader's remarks were in answer to a question about how U.S. supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution can best help defend it. Ortega was speaking to a meeting of about 200 people sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association.

He explained that the U.S. mass media refuses to report the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution — "our literacy campaign, health programs, and agrarian reform, for example." Instead, the media spreads the lies of the U.S. government. "So here is a task for the North American people, to deepen consciousness about the Nicaraguan revolution."

One way to do this, said Ortega, is to "promote travel by North Americans to Nicaragua. All North Americans who wish to travel to our country may do so."

U.S. supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution need to explain to the people of the United States that "they should struggle for the people of Central America," and that "it is in their own interests to do so," the Sandinista leader said.

Ortega outlined some of the imperialist myths that need to be answered: the charge that the Sandinistas persecute the Catholic Church; that they push drugs; that they violate human rights; and that there are Soviet military bases in Nicaragua.

On the last point, he spoke at length on Nicaragua's right to acquire weapons for its own self-defense, responding to a questioner who asked if Nicaragua is going to obtain missiles. Nicaragua has no such plans, said Ortega. "The only missiles we have are our moral and political strength," he explained.

Nicaragua is attempting to obtain combat planes, he said, "because we have no air force." Here again, he emphasized, Washington has distorted the facts in an attempt to justify its escalating war to the U.S. population.

To attack Nicaragua, Ortega said, "the CIA is purchasing airplanes and contracting pilots, some of whom have already fallen on our territory."

"The only way to prevent these kinds of attacks is to acquire airplanes. We're not seeking sophisticated planes but planes that will be useful for this type of defense."

Asked why the Nicaraguan government has not postponed the presidential elections now scheduled for November 4, Ortega remarked that it is "curious" that these elections have become such an issue.

Right after the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979, he explained, "our enemies kept saying we would never have elections and demanded that we do so."

"Once we set a date for elections, the accusations changed. It was no longer that the elections should be hurried up, but that they had to be postponed because they were a fraud."

Ortega asserted that Nicaragua's elections will be "more democratic" than those in the United States. He described the seven political parties that have registered candidates for the Nicaraguan elections. There is the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Ortega is the FSLN's candi-

date for president, and junta member Sergio Ramírez is its vice-presidential candidate.

Then there are the Socialist Party, Communist Party, and People's Action Movement, "parties of the left and ultraleft that accuse the Sandinistas of having sold out to the bourgeoisie," he explained.

Finally there are three parties which Ortega described as running the political spectrum from "the center to the right" — the Conservative Democratic Party, which he termed "extreme rightist," the Independent Liberal Party, which he said "confronts the government from a liberal standpoint," and the People's Social Christian Party, which is also "anti-Sandinista."

All these parties have ballot status and are freely campaigning among the Nicaraguan people, despite their disagreements with government policy.

Four parties have refused to run candidates in the elections, Ortega noted. The elections commission has postponed deadlines for doing so numerous times to allow these parties to run, but they refuse. Washington is behind their boycott, he charged. "U.S. government policy is to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution," he explained. It doesn't want the elections to happen because this would further undermine the lie that the revolution is undemocratic.



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Welcoming rally for Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega in New York outside United Nations.

Sandinista issues warning at UN

Continued from front page

officials of the Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone.

In addition to the mercenary forces, Ortega reported, U.S. soldiers are also concentrated in Honduras and Costa Rica, raising the danger that the October military offensive could escalate further into an invasion of Nicaragua by U.S. ground troops.

Ortega explained that Washington has all its pieces in place for direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. "The United States has installed an impressive military infrastructure in Honduran territory bordering on Nicaragua. Its military presence has also been imposed on Costa Rican territory bordering on Nicaragua."

"U.S. warships are deployed menacingly off our coasts and U.S. spy and warplanes violate our airspace. Thousands of mercenaries function like a full-fledged army from their bases in Honduras and Costa Rica in operations coordinated and directed from military bases in Panama still occupied by the United States."

Washington's strategy, he asserted, is to create a situation where certain Central American governments will claim they face a military threat from Nicaragua and "go through the formality of requesting aid from the United States." This will supply the pretext for direct use of U.S. combat troops.

He reported that the U.S. government has already drawn up GI casualty estimates for such an invasion.

"They also have their Paul Scoon ready to become the [U.S.-imposed] president of Nicaragua," he added, referring to bank official Arturo Cruz, spokesman for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, who is being touted by the U.S. government as the leading "oppositionist" to the Sandinista government. Paul Scoon is the puppet ruler installed by the U.S. government in Grenada after it invaded that island last October.

Contadora Act

Nicaragua is doing everything possible to forestall such a war, Ortega emphasized, from negotiating continuously with U.S. representatives in Manzanillo, Mexico, to urging Central American governments and the U.S. government to sign the Contadora Act, a peace accord drawn up by the governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. Nicaragua has already announced it will sign the accord "without any modification."

Ortega said that "The Central American governments and the U.S. government

must clearly state their position on this accord. We've already done so." He pointed out that it was in the interests of all the countries of Central America to avoid a regional war. The U.S. government, he added, has said it supports the Contadora Group's efforts. If so, it should sign the protocol addendum to the accord.

In response to Ortega's speech, U.S. officials denied they are preparing invasion plans against Nicaragua. State Department spokesman Alan Romberg labeled Ortega's charges "obviously absurd." James Baker of the White House staff said the planned attack was "absolutely not true."

But at the very same time, U.S. government spokesmen rejected peace settlement through the Contadora Act. They admitted that their biggest objection to signing the accord was that it would mean ending their massive military intervention in El Salvador and Honduras, which lays the basis for escalating the war. Officials interviewed by the *New York Times* openly stated that the goal of U.S. policy is to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. "Many senior officials," the *Times* reported, believe "that stability cannot be achieved while the Sandinistas remain in power."

In his speech Ortega reminded UN delegates that "to every peace initiative by Nicaragua, the U.S. government has responded with terrorism and new military bases."

History of war

He reviewed the history of the U.S. war against his country. More than 7,000 Nicaraguans have been killed in combat against the CIA-trained mercenaries and \$237 million in economic damage has been done to Nicaragua. The mercenaries have killed children, teachers, and doctors. They have destroyed cooperative farms, schools, clinics, day-care centers, and machinery.

Washington has systematically tried to sabotage loans and credit to Nicaragua. U.S. officials have cynically debated whether the CIA has properly informed government bodies of its mining operations against Nicaragua, instead of debating the aggressive act of mining itself.

Appealing to the other governments of Central America to sign the Contadora accord, and to the UN to do whatever is possible to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the region, Ortega said that if an agreement could not be reached, the likelihood of direct U.S. intervention was very high. If that occurs, he affirmed, "the Nicaraguan people — barefoot and hungry — are going to fight to the end."

Either the Nicaraguan people will defeat the invaders, he continued, "or all 3 million Nicaraguans could be annihilated. But we will be setting an example for all the people of the world, including the people of the United States."

Nicaragua already stands as "an example of patriotism, nationalism, independence, and nonalignment" for the oppressed of the world, he explained. "This is not to the liking of the United States," which is why it is trying to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

Solidarity with African liberation

In Africa, the Sandinistas stand in solidarity with the governments under attack by imperialism and with the liberation struggles led by the African National Congress in South Africa and SWAPO in Namibia, he said.

In the Middle East, Nicaragua demands that "Israel withdraw from the territories it occupies. We support the rights of the Palestinian nation and the Palestine Liberation Organization, sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Nicaragua calls for "a just and honorable solution to the Iran-Iraq war and demands an end to the use of chemical weapons in that conflict," he explained.

The Sandinistas extend solidarity to the independence struggle of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and condemn imperialist attacks on Libya, he said. "We condemn the policy of aggression against Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos," and support reunification of Korea.

Nicaragua supports "a negotiated, peaceful settlement in El Salvador," said Ortega. It backs Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and independence. It calls for the return of Guantánamo, currently occupied by the U.S. government, to Cuba and "demands an end to the threats to Cuba's integrity." It backs "the sovereignty of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands" and condemns the U.S.-imposed Chilean dictatorship.

Singling out the U.S. invasion of Grenada for special attention, Ortega denounced "the heinous crime committed in the name of freedom against Grenada" and called for "the withdrawal of all foreign occupation troops" from that nation.

Nicaragua's active solidarity with all these peoples is "not to the liking of the United States," Ortega repeated, "but we will continue to condemn colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, apartheid, and racism, and continue to support just causes around the world, despite the sacrifices it may mean for us."

N.Y. benefit for Brigadistas

Farewell Dance for New York's Construction Brigadistas. Will help raise scholarship money for volunteer brigades to Nicaragua. Fri., Oct. 12, 9 p.m. Taller Latino Americano, 19 W 21st St., 2nd floor, Manhattan. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Nicaragua Support Project. For more information call (212) 989-9436.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Support Liberty Supermarket Workers; Fight Union-busting! George Seidensaden, executive assistant to president, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1657. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

South Africa: the Fight for Black Majority Rule. Speakers: Thabiti Mtambuzi, representative of National Black United Front; Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Jose

Unions Under Attack: Are Imports to Blame? John Harriss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 10th C.D. Sat., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The 1984 Elections: What Strategy for Blacks and Working People. Panel discussion. Speakers: Sousuze Nnamdi, leader of Baltimore chapter of National Black Independent Political Party; representative of African National Congress. Eyewitness account of Waynesboro rebellion. Sat., Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Canterbury Center, 791 Fair St. Ausp: NBIPP. For more information call (404) 874-5819.

Defend Abortion!: A Woman's Right to Choose. Sun., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Should Workers Fight Imports? Socialists Say No. Speaker: Gail Skidmore, member of United Steelworkers union. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Will the Elections End U.S. War in Central America? Speakers: Ellen Haywood, National Youth Coordinator of Socialist Workers presidential campaign and National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance; Julie Bowers, high school student, Youth Activist Party. Sun., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Celebrate a Victory for Working People's Democratic Rights. Socialist Workers Party Wins Spot on Ballot. Speakers: Helen Meyers, United Auto Workers Local 1200 and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Andrew Pulley, national co-chair SWP National Campaign Committee, SWP candidate for Congress, 1st C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

call (317) 283-6149.

The British Miners Strike: Why International Solidarity Is Needed. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member United Mine Workers of America and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

How to Stop the Reagan-Mondale War Drive. Speaker: Ellen Haywood, National Youth Coordinator of Socialist Workers presidential campaign and National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Oct. 13. Reception, 7 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. Party to follow. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum and YSA. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Joey Rothenberg, steelworker and SWP candidate for Congress, 7th C.D.; Ted Leonard, machinist and SWP candidate for Congress, 2nd C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 7. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: D.C.-Maryland Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The 1984 Socialist Campaign vs. Reagan-Mondale War Drive. Speaker: Jackie Floyd, national youth coordinator of Socialist Workers presidential campaign, member National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Fight for Freedom in Ireland. Speakers: Mary Pike, attorney for Joseph Doherty, former IRA member imprisoned in New York and facing extradition to Britain; Will Reissner, staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*; representative, H-Block Committee. Friday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., 141 Halsey (corner of Raymond, 1 block from Broad). Donation \$2; preforum dinner available, 6:30, \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Americas in Focus: A Central American and Caribbean Film Festival. *Missing*, Sat., Oct. 6, 2:15, 5:35, and 9:30 p.m. *Chile: I Don't Take Your Name In Vain*, Sat., Oct. 6, 4:40 and 7:50 p.m. *Manos a la Obra: The Story of Operation Bootstrap*, Sun., Oct. 7, 4:20 and 7:35 p.m. *Hearts and Minds*, Mon., Oct. 8, 1, 5, and 10 p.m. *Bitter Cane*, Tue., Oct. 9, 1, 4:20, and 7:45 p.m. *Sugar Cane Alley*, Tue., Oct. 9, 2:25, 5:45, and 9:45 p.m. *The Uprising*, Thurs., Oct. 11, 3:25 and 7:35 p.m. St. Mark's Cinema, 133 Second Ave. Ausp: Central America and Caribbean Film Series Project and New York CIRCUS.

OHIO

Toledo

Women Against Sexual Harassment. Speakers: Denise Gotely, National Organization for Women; Lynn Edminson, Oil, Chemical and

Atomic Workers union and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

Socialist Campaign vs. Reagan-Mondale War Drive. Speaker: Jackie Floyd, national youth coordinator of Socialist Workers campaign and National Committee of Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

Eyewitness Report on British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: Bev Bernardo, recently returned from tour of British coalfields. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6, 7 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

South Africa: The Current Struggle for Human Rights. Speakers: Godfrey Sithole, representative of African National Congress; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

The Elections in Nicaragua. Speaker: Linda Simms, toured Nicaragua on fifth anniversary of revolution. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

General Motors-United Auto Workers Contract: Attacks On Auto Workers Sharpen. Speaker: John Rubinstein, UAW member and director of Dallas Socialist Workers campaign. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. 2817 Live Oak. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

British Labor Party backs miners

Continued from back page

volve the loss of 70,000 jobs.

The fight for solidarity action has not been successful in some cases, however. The second national dock strike, which erupted over the bosses' use of scab labor to move coal, ended in a sellout after the refusal of one-third of dockers to join the strike. This was despite a campaign by the TGWU leadership to build the fight.

In the case of Grimsby and Immingham docks, the workers were divided between the terminal workers, earning £300-400 (£1 = US\$1.25) per week, and the general laborers, earning as little as £60 per week. National TGWU officials addressed a mass meeting to explain the issues on September 14, but were unable to convince the terminal workers that it was in their interest to unite with other dockers against the use of scab labor and in defense of jobs.

The miners' struggle received new sup-

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Statewide Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. Sat., Oct. 13. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. Party to follow. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (801) 355-1124 or in Price, 637-6294.

VIRGINIA

Hampton

Celebrate the Publication of Maurice Bishop Speaks. Speakers: Rev. Leon Hall, pastor of Bethel AME Church; Adeyemi Bandle, vice-chairman of international affairs, National Black United Front; Adeb Hamzey, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee; Brenda Andrews, executive publisher of *Journal Guide*. Sat., Oct. 6, 2 p.m. Bethel AME Church, 94 W Lincoln St.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Report Back From British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: Bev Bernardo, recently returned from Britain. Sun., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Chile, the Political Situation Today. Speaker: Willie Lopez, Chileans for Democracy. Sun., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6. Refreshments, 6 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 1419 V St. NW. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Behind U.S. Attacks On Libya. Speakers: Salah Elshukri, Jamahiriya Student Conference; Anita Spark, former president, Black Student Union; Margo Storsteen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

port this week when members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies, and Shotfirers (NACODS) voted to authorize strike action. More than eighty percent voted for authorization. NACODS members are responsible for mine safety and supervision.

Action by NACODS would stop coal production in areas such as Nottinghamshire, where many miners have refused to join the strike.

Further attacks have been made on the miners through the courts. Two scabs won a judge's ruling to make the strike unofficial. At the Labor Party conference Scargill was served with a writ for contempt of court, threatening him with imprisonment.

The NUM executive met immediately in special session and unanimously reaffirmed the strike action. The NUM president stated that he would not be attending the court hearing, set for October 4.

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ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

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OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767. State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

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Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

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VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

UAW women discuss how to fight sexual harassment

The following is a guest column by Elizabeth Lariscy. Lariscy is a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio, and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Ohio's 9th C.D.

One hundred and seventy-five women members of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) came together the last week of August for a three-day conference in Hudson, Ohio. The conference was sponsored by three UAW regions encompassing Ohio, West Virginia, and western



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

Pennsylvania. The Women's Department of Solidarity House, the UAW international headquarters, organized the activities.

Each day was divided into morning general assembly sessions with speeches and afternoon workshops. The keynote speaker was Odessa Komer, UAW vice-president and director of the UAW Women's Department. Other UAW officials, as well as Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, also spoke.

One speech that drew special attention was that given by Joe Tomasi, director of UAW Region 2-B, which includes Toledo.

Tomasi described the struggle by Local 14 at AP Parts, where members have been on strike for four months. The women bought more than 100 buttons supporting the AP Parts strike.

The workshops at the conference — led by UAW Women's Department staff members — focused on four topics: parliamentary procedure, UAW local women's committees, assertiveness training, and stress management. All of these topics prompted far-reaching discussions on the problems of women workers.

In the parliamentary procedure workshop, for exam-

ple, there was a discussion about the difficult time workers have getting recognized at a union meeting. One woman detailed the verbal harassment she faced from officials at a union meeting when she tried to express an opinion. Another cried while describing the humiliation she was subjected to by her local president in front of a group of male workers when she asked to be sent to this conference. She ended up paying her own way.

Many women who were members of women's committees related the difficulty they had in getting other women to be active because of the child care and household responsibilities we have.

The assertiveness training and stress management workshops became consciousness-raising sessions on what sexual harassment is. Women discussed questions like: Do women "ask for it?" How can we defend all women? What should the union do?

Participants affirmed that sexual harassment can be verbal as well as physical. The workshops refuted the myth that some women encourage sexual harassment by the way they dress or act. Workshop leaders explained that sexual harassment is by definition unwanted and therefore no woman "asks for it."

One woman explained that she always wears her ugliest clothes and no make-up to work in an attempt to stop her male coworkers from harassing her — but to no avail. Workshop participants detailed case upon case of harassment by company personnel, coworkers, and union officials. One example was a foreman who discovered that a worker who was only 17 had lied about her age to get her job. He then demanded sexual favors in return for not turning her in to the boss.

A common complaint was the use of obscene words, gestures, and photos to keep women out of predominantly male work areas. Another was refusal by men to work with women and a barrage of requests for sexual favors.

Many women were not aware that the UAW has many official positions in favor of women's rights, including support for the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, affirmative action, and against sexual harassment.

The union's position on sexual harassment is spelled out in a "Policy on the Elimination of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace." It says that "Sexual harassment of workers by members of supervision or coworkers should not be tolerated at any workplace organized by the UAW.

Just as the UAW abhors the use of racial or ethnic slurs, the International Union views sexual harassment in any form as an attack on the dignity of the worker who is the victim."

The policy states that sexual harassment by supervision should be treated as a serious issue, grieved, and taken up in collective bargaining.

It also points out that sexual harassment by other union members "violates the fundamental principles and equality for which the Union has fought so hard," and says that "such conduct is particularly offensive if it involves a Union official abusing his or her position of Union authority." The policy outlines internal union procedures for dealing with sexual harassment by union members.

It is important that the union has this official position. The UAW, like many other unions, was won by the struggle of women workers and the impact of the women's liberation movement to support aspects of the fight for women's rights. Such a stance strengthens the entire union movement.

But an official policy is not enough. Much of the discussion at the conference centered on procedures for dealing with sexual harassment through the union. For every procedure suggested, women countered that it had not been effective in their experience.

There is a big job ahead of us in educating and winning the unions to a genuine defense of the rights of women workers. It is a struggle that all workers have a stake in. It's a basic question of equality and solidarity.

By getting together at the conference, women were encouraged to stand together and fight as union members. The opportunity to discuss the question of sexual harassment as a serious question for women workers and for the union, and not just a personal problem, was a step forward.

Women UAW members were also urged to become members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and to utilize the resources of the UAW Women's Department, which include pamphlets, films, and speakers.

These can be obtained by writing to: UAW, Women's Department, 8000 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48214, or by calling (313) 929-5474.

I believe that most of the women who participated in this conference went home feeling more confident, less alone, and more eager to build their women's committees into real, fighting women's rights organizations.

Toledo OCAW workers end strike against Sun Oil

BY TOMMYE WIESE

TOLEDO — Members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912 returned to work at the Sun Oil refinery here on August 11 after a 20-week strike against intolerable concessions demanded by the company.

A new contract was ratified by a very slim margin. The fighting spirit of the members remained high, and nearly half of those voting felt that the union could have won more if the strike had continued.

Others felt, however, that the union had exhausted the possibilities available to it for building the strike. Con-

act in solidarity with our strike at Sun Oil, and the auto workers strike at AP Parts.

The company's program to institute two-tier wage structures, temporary hiring at low rates, and direct hire into the maintenance department was set back considerably.

The right of employees to bid from operations to maintenance, long seen as a privilege acquired with seniority, remains, although in restricted form. The company had wanted to do away with it altogether.

Sun's owners had also demanded the right to hire temporary employees at a greatly reduced rate of pay. Their intention was to create a pool of low-paid, nonunion workers who could be used to replace maintenance jobs and reduce overtime. The provisions in the final agreement make this extremely difficult for them to do.

The partial victories won by the union on the issues were not the only, or the most important, gains made. The local is further ahead than it has ever been in building a more conscious, fighting organization.

Sun has spent many years and a lot of money on various schemes to create and maintain what it calls a "nonadversarial" relationship with its work force. The

very fact that there was a strike serves notice to the employers that they cannot simply do anything they want to.

In the course of the strike, the union took several steps that help point the way forward for other unionists looking for ways to resist the employer offensive.

Recognizing that it could not win alone, our local worked to set up and strengthen ties with other unions. The favorable response from other unions was shown by a successful solidarity rally held in April and by our union's active solidarity with the auto workers at AP Parts. The OCAW local received nearly \$25,000 in donations during the strike, mostly from other unions in the Toledo area.

The union has also become more democratic in its functioning than before. Detailed information on contract proposals was made available to the membership from the very beginning of negotiations. Strike issues, negotiating strategies, and support-building activities were all topics of open discussion at the weekly union meetings.

Tommye Wiese is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-912.

UAW-GM contract offers more layoffs, concessions

Continued from Page 3

expense. An 11 cents per hour COLA raise due to workers in September 1984 will not be given. In addition, 1 cent per hour of COLA money in the first nine quarters of the contract and 2 cents per hour in the last two quarters will be used to help fund the job bank.

GM has also gained by not factoring into the base wage the present full \$3.04 COLA money. Instead, \$2.99 will be immediately factored in, and the other 5 cents will be factored in at a later date.

Forced overtime

UAW members had also hoped this contract would do something to end forced overtime. This is so extensive at GM that if it were completely stopped, 70,000 additional workers would be needed. But here, no substantial improvements have been obtained.

When overtime hours exceed 5 percent of the straight time, a 50-cent-per-hour penalty is to be paid by the company. Rather than have this go into workers'

pockets, however, the money will go to a retraining fund. When one considers that no contractual hourly increases will be paid by GM for the final two years of the contract, this actually proves to be no penalty at all. The goal of this is to reduce overtime by a meager two hours per week.

In 1982 UAW members gave up nine paid personal holidays per year — 27 holidays over the three-year contract. The new contract reserves only five holidays over a three-year period.

Small increases in retirement benefits are part of the tentative agreement. These improvements will not even keep up with inflation. They total roughly 9.5 percent for the three years of the contract, a period in which the company estimates inflation will be 15 percent.

An attendance policy that can penalize workers up to 20 percent of their wages remains unchanged, and profit-sharing used by bosses as a substitute for wage increases remains a central part of this pact.

In addition, a \$180 one-time bonus will be given to all workers when the contract is

ratified, and a new perfect-attendance policy will be implemented. Any worker who has perfect attendance for one-quarter of the year will receive a \$50 bonus. Perfect attendance for an entire year is worth an additional \$300, for a \$500-per-year total.

Because the entire agreement has not been published, many questions remain unanswered. For example, it is not known if the two-tier wage system that the company hoped to extend to five years, with a new-hire wage set at 75 percent of base pay, is part of this proposal. Since it has not been mentioned, it can be assumed that at a minimum it remains at its present state. That is, workers currently start at 85 percent of base pay and it takes 18 months before full benefits and wages are earned.

One thing is certain. The 70,000 plus GM workers who are already on permanent layoff have been written off by the company. Nothing in this proposal benefits them in any way.

The UAW-prepared summary explains that the tentative agreement "reaffirms the union and company commitment to build-

ing on current joint efforts by fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual dedication."

The contract proposal, in reality, represents further backward steps for auto workers.

Fidel Castro Speeches

Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy 1975-80

Since 1975, Cuba's foreign policy has deeply affected the course of world politics. Few of Castro's speeches are readily accessible in English. What does exist in print generally dates back to the 1960s or even earlier. This book represents a step toward filling that gap.

391 pp., \$7.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Include \$.75 for postage.

2 prowar 'peace' candidates

As election day approaches, President Reagan and Walter Mondale are both cynically stepping up their efforts to appear to be champions of world peace. Both held well-publicized meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, which they claimed were efforts to initiate a dialogue with the Soviet government on arms control.

Reagan's September 24 speech to the United Nations General Assembly was also portrayed as being less beligerent than most of his foreign policy statements — and actions.

In his UN speech, Reagan piously called on the member nations to lift "the dread of nuclear war from the peoples of the earth. . . . For the sake of a peaceful world, a world where human dignity and freedom is respected and enshrined, let us approach each other with tenfold trust and thousandfold love."

In the next breath, however, Reagan revealed how empty his rhetorical call for world peace really was. He demanded that Nicaragua "abandon its policies of subversion and militarism and . . . establish democracy at home." This from the head of state that is waging a murderous war against the Nicaraguan people precisely to subvert the popular government there.

Reagan praised what he called the "peace diplomacy" of imperialist military alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Association of South East Asian Nations. Though the speech was slightly toned down — for electioneering purposes — from his earlier rantings about an "evil empire," it continued the theme of blaming the Soviet Union for the wars that are going on in the world today. Reagan pledges to militarily defend "democratic" imperialism and its client regimes around the world.

Mondale's peace rhetoric is equally hollow and hypocritical. In discussing his meeting with Gromyko Mondale tried to portray the Soviet Union as the cause of the massive escalation in the development of nuclear weapons.

That's false. It's Washington that has led the way, using these weapons of mass destruction as a sword hanging over the head of oppressed and exploited peoples throughout the world who try to free themselves from the grip of U.S. imperialist domination.

Mondale talks about a "nuclear freeze" and arms control while he praises Reagan's criminal invasion of Grenada — and pledges to do the same when necessary — and threatens to "quarantine" Nicaragua if the Sandinista government takes the measures necessary to defend itself from Washington's aggression. Like Reagan, Mondale claims that it's the Soviet Union and Cuba that are the source of escalating war in Central America. Yet it's U.S. soldiers, U.S. bases, U.S. ships, and U.S. money that are fueling the aggression there.

Both Reagan and Mondale support increased arms spending, differing only on how much to increase Washington's murderous arsenal.

Both called for strengthening the CIA and U.S. military "security" abroad in the wake of the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut. Both support having nuclear missiles in Europe, minutes away from targets in the Soviet Union and the European workers states. Both vow to use any means to hold back and reverse the revolutions in Central America.

The source of war in the world is the same tiny minority of capitalist rulers in this country that are attacking our rights and living standards. And their need to go to war is as great as their need to bust our unions and drive down our wages. They need to do both to protect their profits.

These needs don't change if there's a Democrat or Republican in the White House.

The only road to peace is a vigorous fight by working people against Washington's two-fisted war at home and abroad, especially in Central America.

It's only when the workers and farmers establish their own government that the imperialist warmongers in Washington will be disarmed and real peace achieved.

Opportunities to protest U.S. war

Washington's war in Central America is the most important issue for the U.S. labor movement today. The U.S. rulers' war is at the heart of the employers' antilabor offensive at home and their increased attacks on Blacks, farmers, and women.

This issue of the *Militant* reports on important opportunities to involve an increasing number of U.S. workers in actively opposing the U.S. war in Central America.

On page 6 we reprint a resolution adopted by the recent International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) convention, which demands the release of 10 leaders of El Salvador's hydroelectrical workers union, STECEL. The campaign for the freedom of the STECEL workers is being organized by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, whose members include IUE Pres. William Bywater.

The plight of these Salvadoran workers — imprisoned, tortured, and denied legal counsel for the last four years — reveals the true nature of the Salvadoran dictatorship, backed by U.S. military might. The entire labor movement should join the campaign demanding the release of the STECEL workers, and should fight for an end to all U.S. aid to the reactionary regime of Salvadoran Pres. José Napoleón Duarte.

The IUE's call for granting political asylum in the United States for the STECEL activists and their families should also be championed by U.S. workers and their organizations. Trade unionists here should demand that all Salvadorans, and others fleeing the terror of U.S.-backed regimes, be granted such refuge in this country.

Hand in hand with the fight against U.S. support to the Salvadoran dictatorship, the U.S. labor movement should organize against the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua. The U.S. rulers are deepening this war. As Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega explained to the United Nations October 2, Washington is planning a new military offensive by its mercenaries against Nicaragua this month. This dangerous escalation increases the threat of direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

Spreading the truth about the revolution in Nicaragua is also an important task for U.S. trade unionists. On page 7 the *Militant* reports on a fact-finding tour to Nicaragua made by a delegation of trade union officials from the West Coast. Since returning to the United States, these unionists have begun holding news conferences, addressing union locals, making radio and television spots, and speaking before public meetings to get out the truth about the "powerful, diverse, and free labor movement" they found in Nicaragua.

Other U.S. trade unionists should follow their example by going to Nicaragua to see for themselves. They can find out about the impressive gains made by Nicaraguan workers and farmers in health, education, working conditions, and organization since the 1979 overthrow of the

Somoza dictatorship. They can witness the truly democratic process that unfolds when workers and farmers hold political power.

Most importantly, such trade union delegations to Nicaragua can come back to this country and tell the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution to other working people.

This educational campaign is essential to mobilizing working-class opposition to the bosses' war in Central America. Those who travel to Nicaragua and learn firsthand that the revolution there is being made by, for, and in the interests of working people will be among those who will lead the fight against Washington's war.

A third opportunity for trade unionists are local protest actions in several cities that are planned to coincide with the anniversary of the U.S. invasion in Grenada. A demonstration is scheduled in New York City, for example, on October 27. It will demand withdrawal of all U.S. and other foreign troops from Grenada as well as oppose U.S. intervention throughout the Caribbean and Central America. The coalition organizing this action was formed by Black, Central America solidarity, peace, and left groups.

Wherever such actions are being organized, trade unionists should join in building them and in seeking to win support for them from their unions. Each step labor takes to defend its sisters and brothers abroad strengthens its ability to fight the employers here at home.



U.S. and Nicaraguan miners

'Two, three, many Vietnams' — Che Guevara Speaks

On October 8, 1967, Ernesto "Che" Guevara was murdered by the Bolivian military dictatorship. Guevara epitomized two of the greatest strengths of the Cuban revolution he helped lead — its uncompromising fight against U.S. imperialism and its deep internationalism.

We are reprinting here excerpts from Guevara's statement, "Vietnam and the World Struggle for Freedom." This was the one public statement made by Che between the time he left Cuba in the spring of 1965 to his death in Bolivia.

Guevara's message from "somewhere in the world" to the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America is a call to the oppressed of the

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

world to stand with Vietnam in its heroic battle against U.S. imperialism.

Today, as Washington is escalating its war against the people of Central America, Guevara's writings on the struggle against imperialism have much to teach revolutionary fighters.

The full text appears in *Che Guevara Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press.

* * *

The peoples of three continents are watching and learning a lesson for themselves in Vietnam.

The Americas, a continent forgotten in the latest political struggles for freedom, which is beginning to make itself felt through the Tricontinental by means of the Cuban Revolution, which is the voice of the vanguard of its peoples, will undertake a much more outstanding task — the creation of a second or third Vietnam, or the world's second or third Vietnam.

In short, it must be remembered that imperialism is a worldwide system, the final stage of capitalism, and it must be beaten in a worldwide confrontation.

The strategic objective of this struggle must be the destruction of imperialism.

Our part, the responsibility of the exploited and the backward areas of the world, is to eliminate the bases sustaining imperialism — our oppressed peoples, from whom capital, raw materials, technicians and cheap labor are extracted, and to whom new capital, means of domination, arms and all kinds of goods are exported, submerging us in absolute dependence.

The fundamental element of this strategic goal will be, then, the real liberation of the peoples, a liberation that will be obtained through armed struggle in the majority of cases, and which, in the Americas, will have almost unfailingly the property of becoming converted into a socialist revolution.

[...] let us develop genuine proletarian internationalism, with international proletarian armies; let the flag under which we fight be the sacred cause of benefiting all humanity, so that to die under the colors of Vietnam, Venezuela, Guatemala, Laos, Guinea, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil — to mention only the current scenes of the armed struggle — is equally glorious and desirable for an American, an Asian, an African and even a European.

Every drop of blood spilled in a land under whose flag one was not born is an experience that is treasured by anyone who survives and who can then apply the lessons learned in the struggle for freedom in his own place of origin. And every people that frees itself is a step won in the battle for freedom of one's own people.

Vietnam teaches us [...] with its permanent lesson in heroism, its tragic daily lesson in struggle and death in order to gain the final victory.

Over there, the imperialist troops encounter the discomforts of those accustomed to the standard of living which the North American nation boasts. They have to confront a hostile land, the insecurity of those who cannot move without feeling that they are walking on enemy territory; death for those who go outside of fortified redoubts; the permanent hostility of the entire population.

All this continues to provoke repercussions inside the United States; it is going to arouse a factor that was attenuated in the days of the full vigor of imperialism — the class struggle inside its own territory.

How close and bright would the future appear if two, three, many Vietnams flowered on the face of the globe, with their quota of death and immense tragedies, with their daily heroism, with their repeated blows against imperialism, obliging it to disperse its forces under the lash of the growing hate of the people of the world!

Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear, and another hand reaches out to take up our arms, and other men come forward to join in our funeral dirge with the chattering of machine guns and new calls for battle and for victory.

U.S. issues new lies on divestment in South Africa

There's an old joke about a business exec who hands a sheaf of papers to an employee and says "Jones, here's my annual report to the board. Get me some statistics to back it up."

Pres. Reagan's statisticians have done the U.S. government a similar favor by carrying out a poll in South Africa that "proves" that the majority of Black workers there support U.S. employer investment in the country.

The U.S. government and other donors paid Prof. Lawrence Schlemmer, a liberal sociologist at the Univer-



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

sity of Natal, to conduct a survey among Black South African factory workers. Schlemmer, who heads the South African Institute of Race Relations, reported that 75 percent of those interviewed opposed campaigns in the United States and elsewhere for divestment in South Africa.

It's surprising that Schlemmer didn't find those interviewed 100 percent opposed to divestment. After all, to advocate it is illegal in South Africa. Under the apartheid regime it's against the law to "discourage, hamper, deter, or prevent foreign investment in the economy of the Republic." This "criminal" offense is punishable by a sentence of a minimum of five years in jail and a maximum of death.

Under those circumstances, what Black South African would tell some stranger with a clipboard that foreign

employers should withdraw all their capital from the country?

Nevertheless, leaders of Black trade unions, churches, and political organizations have found ways to call for divestment. As one Black South African leader told the *New York Times* in 1978, "If I said that the only way to bring change would be total economic sanctions, I would be liable to go to jail. . . . Let's say I support 'pressures,' and leave it at that."

The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the main national liberation movement in the country, can speak more freely, having already been declared "illegal" by the apartheid regime. "What we in the ANC want to see is what the people of South Africa want to see," said Oliver Tambo, the ANC's president.

"Our people are not only ready and willing to accept the consequences of action against the regime on the economic front, but they have themselves demanded the total political, economic, cultural, and military isolation of the racist regime. We demand total isolation of the racist regime — no investment and withdrawal of existing investment."

In its secret reports and memos the U.S. government is more honest than the Schlemmer survey. The U.S. ambassador to South Africa, for example, sent a confidential memo to the State Department in 1977 in which he said "[It] must be expected that the role of American firms here will become increasingly controversial and rationale for continued presence will seem less and less persuasive to growing numbers of blacks."

Not only are more and more Blacks in South Africa opposed to U.S. and other aid to the racist regime, but increasing numbers of Blacks and other working people in the United States are demanding divestment in South Africa.

Direct investment in South Africa by U.S. capitalists is estimated to be upwards of \$14 billion. This economic

support is a major prop of the apartheid system.

Opponents of the racist South African regime have fought for divestment as an important way to aid the struggle for Black majority rule there. For more than a decade, apartheid foes have demanded that college trustees sell stock the schools owned in companies doing business in South Africa.

Recently, several city and state governments have adopted some form of divestment. Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, and Boston have joined a number of smaller cities in withdrawing funds from South Africa.

So far, five states — Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Nebraska — have adopted laws on divestment of South African holdings.

This reflects growing support for Black majority rule. It's this sentiment that motivates the U.S. rulers to periodically mount a propaganda campaign against divestment. Echoing the Reagan administration, Schlemmer claims that "Divestment by U.S. companies and trade sanctions are a threat to [Blacks'] material and work interests, and therefore they oppose them with a firm consistency."

But the state-sponsored U.S.-backed racial discrimination of apartheid South Africa is the real threat to Black workers. U.S. capital is no less exploitative of Black South African workers than native capital is.

Moreover, divestment is not so much an economic demand as it is a *political* one. When investors divest, they do it by *selling or transferring* their property. Capital will continue to find its way into South Africa as long as someone can make a buck investing it.

However, the campaign demanding divestment *politically* exposes the role of U.S. and world imperialism in helping to shore up apartheid. All opponents of the racist South African regime should join in this anti-imperialist drive against South Africa and its backers.

Why 'contras' kidnapped Sandinista leader Hooker

BY SANDI SHERMAN

Beasts.

That's what the Nicaraguan people call the counterrevolutionary ex-Somozaist guards that the U.S. government has organized into an army to try to destroy their revolution. And it's an appropriate name for those we've come to know as *contras*.

I and thousands of others who have had the opportunity to visit Nicaragua have seen the pain and destruction these beasts cause.

They specialize in kidnappings, rape, and murder. They target for destruction schools, hospitals, day care

the Moravian High School in 1956, and got a degree from Ohio University in the United States. After working on the Pacific Coast, he returned to Bluefields in 1976, and has worked closely with the Indian population of the region. He helped to set up the Miskitu community of Tasba Pri, a village where the Miskitus were resettled after contra attacks along the Rio Coco River, bordering Honduras, made it necessary to transfer them.

Because of his experience, we found Hooker uniquely qualified to explain the challenges facing the FSLN government on the Atlantic Coast.

He began his presentation to my group by explaining the history of the colonization of Nicaragua. The Pacific Coast was colonized by the Spanish, while the Atlantic Coast was taken by the British. African slaves were brought there in the 17th century. This information helped to explain the dramatic cultural differences between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts that are obvious to any visitor.

He spent a good deal of time explaining the circumstances that forced the government to relocate the Miskitu Indians, a task he frankly stated was very difficult. "It had to be done," he said, "or they would have been wiped out."

"Now," Hooker explained, "there are 9,000 residents of Tasba Pri. Houses have been built. Farmlands have been given to them. They are as well off if not better materially than they were in the Rio Coco. But, intangibles associated with a place called home have probably not yet been acquired in Tasba Pri. One of the main preoccupations of the government is to try to make Tasba Pri a home." Hooker understood well the challenges of integrating the Atlantic Coast population, which because

of its isolation had not participated in the 1979 revolution against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. He knew it would take time. "If you've had a people who have been treated like underdogs for 400 years, you can't expect change in three years of revolution," he explained.

"A revolution, changing society, transforming human beings, is the most difficult thing human beings attempt."

Hooker expressed confidence that the Nicaraguan people would win this struggle, just as they had won their decades-long struggle for true independence when the workers and farmers took power on July 19, 1979. He said, "The only way the U.S. can destroy this revolution is to bomb us to bits and send in 500,000 troops."

When the news of the kidnapping of Hooker and Delgado came, many people feared they had been killed by the beasts. Recently, counterrevolutionary leader Edén Pastora announced that he is holding them prisoner, and the Nicaraguan government says it has reliable reports that they are being held in Costa Rica.

Hooker is a candidate on the FSLN slate for the National Assembly elections which will take place on November 4. The U.S. government has been making charges that the Nicaraguan elections are undemocratic. The hypocrisy of these charges is especially outrageous when the same government that makes these charges is organizing and financing the army that kidnaps the candidates!

Those of us who had the privilege of meeting and learning from Hooker, Delgado, and other Sandinista leaders will redouble our efforts to organize opposition to the U.S.-sponsored war against the Nicaraguan people and revolution.

AS I SEE IT

centers — the social gains the Nicaraguan people have won as a result of the Sandinista-led revolution.

And they target the activists who are leading the advance of the revolutionary process — leaders of agricultural cooperatives, mass organizations, teachers, health workers.

Recently these beasts kidnapped two people that I met on my visit to Nicaragua in May 1983: Ray Hooker and Patricia Delgado. Delgado is a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) Regional Committee in Bluefields, in the southern region of the Atlantic Coast. Hooker works with the regional government in the areas of health and education.

Many participants in tours to Nicaragua have met Hooker. I met him while on a trip sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc.

Hooker is a native of Bluefields. He graduated from

LETTERS

Oklahoma UAW

As the *Militant* distributor in the Oklahoma City area, I have been following the developments at the General Motors plant here, which produces more cars than any other plant in North America.

Seventy percent of the plant's 6,200 workers are from Oklahoma and have never experienced a strike. (This state has a very low percentage of organized workers.) Thirty percent of the workers are from other GM plants — at least half from two plants in California that were shut down. Most of these workers have had strike experience.

Although 90 percent of United Auto Workers Local 1999 here voted to authorize a strike, it was not called out.

The workers you talk to almost always begin with, "No one wants

a strike," but follow this quickly with statements of support for their striking union brothers and sisters and reiterate their willingness to go out if called. There are already strike committees formed and functioning.

Local negotiations continue over in-plant job assignments, plant conditions, and in-plant seniority. Workers who have transferred in from other plants begin with no seniority at this plant.

Jerry Messick
Norman, Oklahoma

N.J. Labor Day march

Yvonne Hayes' article on the New York Labor Day Parade — and Andrea González' socialist campaign message — mirrored the experience of those who attended the Southern New Jersey Labor Day march in Asbury Park.

The approximately 5,000 unionists who attended were members of the United Auto Workers (UAW), International Union of Operating Engineers, Laborers' Union, International Union of Electronic Workers, International Ladies' Garment Workers', Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, Communications Workers of America, and others.

The march, sponsored by the Central Labor Council of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, was oriented around the upcoming elections with signs reflecting the "Dump Reagan — Vote Democratic" theme.

Home-made signs and t-shirts worn by workers who were locked out from Merck Chemical Company in Rahway carried a different message to the people of New Jersey: "Make lock-outs illegal," and

"Labor Stands United Against Merck." The largest union contingent was UAW District 65. Its banner read, "Jobs, Peace and Freedom — We Still Have a Dream."

Among the marchers were various local bands. The winner of the parade's music competition was "The Fourth Wall Repertory Company," who sang antinuclear and antiwar songs.

Zena McFadden
Jersey City, New Jersey

Farm workers win one

Given the many setbacks suffered by our class lately, I thought I might perk up *Militant* readers with this small victory that campesinos recently won.

Twenty-four Salinas farm workers won a \$278,000 settlement in a lawsuit against a labor contractor, two growers, and three

pesticide manufacturers. Two years ago, the workers were sent to work in a cauliflower field that had been sprayed with powerful pesticides. Twenty-nine workers were hospitalized. One worker, Maria Flores, was pregnant. Her daughter was born with severe birth defects and died two weeks after birth.

Lawyers for the farm workers said they hoped the settlement would prod the growers to use more caution in the future.

Pedro Vásquez
Seaside, California

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.

Why Walter Mondale's program won't aid the working farmer

This week we are running an article on Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale's agriculture program. Last week we ran an article on President Reagan's farm policy and in a coming issue we will run an article on the farm program of Socialist Workers Party candidate Mel Mason.

BY DOUG JENNESS

Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale has charged President Reagan's administration with "four years of inattention and hostility to effective farm programs."

At the Iowa state fair in Des Moines in August, the Democratic contender asserted, "If I were Reagan, if I were a Republican, I wouldn't start this farm debate. There is no way they can win it."

There is certainly no doubt that hundreds of thousands of farmers know the callous disregard the Reagan administration has shown for their plight. But what does Mondale offer that makes him so confident that he can "win" a debate with the Republicans?

The truth is, nothing. To confirm this we not only have Mondale's current promises. We also have his four-year record as vice-president in James Carter's administration.

One of the most remembered acts of the Carter-Mondale administration was its imposition of a grain embargo against the USSR in retaliation for Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The victims of this punitive embargo were Soviet working people and U.S. farmers, and many farmers are still bitter about it.

In order to maintain a credible vote-

catching posture, Mondale has attempted to wriggle out of responsibility for this attack on farmers. He now claims that he unsuccessfully appealed to Carter not to impose the embargo. But the fact remains that Mondale publicly defended it, including during the 1980 presidential campaign when he chose to run for a second term with Carter.

More significant is what Mondale doesn't even try to disassociate himself from. The crisis that has hurled working farmers into the worst situation they have been in since the Great Depression of the 1930s did not begin the day Reagan was inaugurated. It was already well under way during the Carter-Mondale years.

During their administration, massive farmer protests swept across the country and two tractorcades involving tens of

thousands of farmers converged on Washington, D.C., in 1978 and 1979. A new farmers' organization, the American Agriculture Movement, won thousands of adherents. The protesting farmers demanded that government price supports be increased so that they could receive income sufficient to meet their costs of production and have enough to live on.

The price-support increases in the 1977 farm bill promoted by the Carter-Mondale administration still kept prices that farmers received well below the costs of production. Despite the farmers' protests the administration rejected any further increases. They were too costly, farmers were told. In fact, the administration spearheaded the drive in Congress to prevent Congress from adopting even watered-down versions of what the farmers demanded.

'Old-fashioned greed'

During the 1979 tractorcade, when farmers camped out in the national capital to press for relief, Agriculture Secretary Robert Bergland bluntly declared that farmers' chances of success were "from zero to nothing." He expressed the contemptuous attitude of the Carter-Mondale policy well when he accused demonstrating farmers of "just old-fashioned greed."

However, while the cost-conscious Carter-Mondale administration could not scrape up the funds to aid the worst-off farmers, its programs provided capitalist farmers and merchants with a bountiful harvest. This was even revealed in a report released by the Department of Agriculture in the closing days of the Carter-Mondale administration. The report showed that only 3 percent of all farmers received 46 percent of all benefits paid by federal farm programs in 1978. The report admitted that these policies "accelerate the trend toward ever larger farming operations" and "encourage economic cannibalism within agriculture."

In addition to the price-support programs, which under every Democratic and Republican administration have favored the biggest and most well-off farmers, a big source of aid to capitalist agriculture was the government-subsidized credit programs. Both the Farm Credit System and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) steered the greatest proportion of their loans to capitalist enterprises.

In 1980 the Media General News Service prepared a series of five articles on the FmHA that were published in local newspapers around the country.

A single arm of the FmHA — the Business and Industrial Loan Program — according to these articles "handles about \$1.1 billion in federally guaranteed loans each year, helping funeral parlors, automobile dealers, nursing homes, canning plants, resort hotels, fast-food restaurants, golf courses, and fish hatcheries, among others." For example, the multimillionaire chicken dealer, Frank Perdue, received about \$20 million from the FmHA to build a new processing plant in North Carolina, among other ventures.

At the same time hundreds of Black farmers in North Carolina were being forced off their land because they were unable to qualify for FmHA loans.

Profit bonanza for grain merchants

Then in typical fashion, the Carter-Mondale grain embargo not only victimized working farmers by leading to lower prices for their grain, but ended up giving big grain merchants a profit bonanza. After the embargo was announced Vice-president Mondale, on behalf of the administration, immediately assured Minnesota-based Car-

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Clarion Ledger

Tractorcade at White House in late 1970s protesting antifarmer policies of Carter-Mondale administration. Mondale's current policies don't differ fundamentally from them, or from Reagan's policies.

Labor Party conference in Britain backs striking mine workers union

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

SHEFFIELD, England — "The Labor Party backs the miners all the way." That's how Tony Benn, a left-wing Labor Party member of parliament, summed up the party's debate on the seven-month-old coal miners strike. He was speaking on behalf of the National Executive at the recent Labor Party conference.

The conference vote in favor of the miners solidarity resolution was near unanimous.

Delegates had earlier given the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) president, Arthur Scargill, a standing ovation as he called for solidarity: "As we go into the eighth month of this dispute, there's one thing coming through loud and clear. The miners are winning this fight. And they are not only winning it for miners. They are winning it for you and the entire labor and trade union movement."

The conference went on to debate the role of the police, who have carried out a massive campaign of violence and intimidation against the miners during the strike. Resolutions were carried deploring police violence against the miners, and calling for any future Labor government to ban the use of police against strikers and to disband the special riot police.

This was a rebuff to Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock, who had not identified himself with the miners' struggle until the 18th

week of the strike. Kinnock has also attacked miners' "violence" on the picket lines, bowing to the Conservative government's campaign of labeling picketing miners as thugs. During her speech, Labor Party National Executive member Jo Richardson prominently displayed a large photograph showing a mounted cop clubbing a woman as she tried to help an injured miner.

Campaign for further solidarity

In the aftermath of the success in winning support at the Trades Union Congress (TUC) conference in early September, the NUM is now campaigning for solidarity action by transport, steel, and electricity-supply workers.

On September 20 Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), announced that it was reissuing the guidelines that were given in support of the 1974 miners strike. Those guidelines included a ban on handling or facilitating the movement of coal into power stations, no use of imported coal, and no crossing of NUM picket lines at coal depots.

Further support for the miners has come from the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trade Unions (GMBATU), which is the biggest of the electricity-supply unions. Its program of support includes

no use of imported coal, no use of coal mined by scabs, and restrictions on the use of oil to 1983 levels.

South Wales miners' official Kim Howells reported that the power-station workers at Didcot, Aberthaw, and Fiddlers Ferry had pledged to refuse any new deliveries of coal. Tom Burlinson, GMBATU regional secretary, reported that shop stewards in northeast England, at Blyth, Stella North, and Stella South, had made the same commitment. According to the *Guardian*, shop stewards in the Yorkshire power stations of Ferrybridge, Eggborough, and Drax expect workers there to support TUC policy backing the miners.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers — which also organizes power workers — gave his union's support to the miners and estimated that the first electricity cuts would occur within six to eight weeks.

Mixed results

Union officials are being forced to mobilize support for the miners. They are under pressure from the ranks who have been inspired by the miners' heroic fight. For well over six months the NUM has been battling against the immediate closure of five mines, which is the first part of a closure program that would eventually in-

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