

## Company greed killed coal miners in Utah

Emery Mining Corp. conceals the facts

The authors of the following article are both coal miners who participated in the union rescue and relief efforts during the recent mine disaster in Utah.

Cecelia Moriarity works at the Wilberg mine where the fatal fire occurred. She is a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2176 and of the Lady Coal Miners of Utah. Moriarity ran for governor of Utah in the 1984 elections on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

Joe Geiser, a member of UMWA Local 1769, works at the Deer Creek mine, which is located directly above the Wilberg mine. Both mines are owned by the Utah Power & Light Co. and managed by the Emery Mining Corp.

BY JOE GEISER  
AND CECELIA MORIARITY

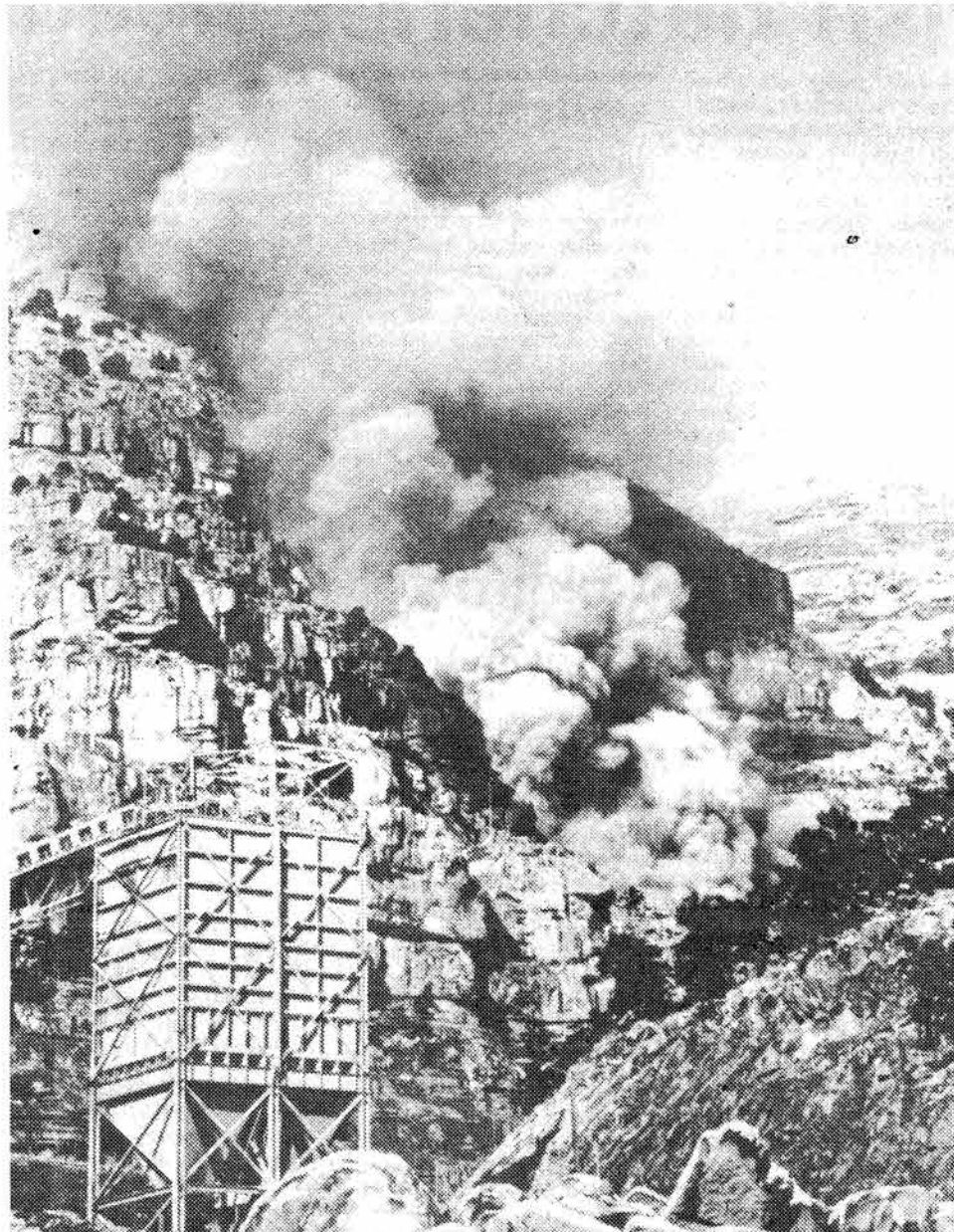
PRICE, Utah — Nineteen members of UMWA Local 2176, and eight company executives and foremen, were killed by a fire that started Dec. 19, 1984, at the Wilberg mine outside Orangeville, Utah. The mine is located in the main coal-producing region in the southeastern part of the state.

The bodies of the 26 men and one woman remain inside the mine despite attempts to rescue them. On December 23 rescue teams were evacuated from the mine on the order of federal mine inspectors as explosive gases reached a dangerous level. On December 29 the mine portals were sealed in an effort to bring under control the fire that has raged since December 19.

### World production record

The dead miners were all working in a section of the mine where a longwall, the most modern and mechanized machine for producing coal, was in use. The company was attempting to achieve a 24-hour world production record at the time of the fire.

Emery spokesman Robert Henrie refused to confirm that the company was pushing for a world record, but said that even if this were true, "It is totally unwarranted to suggest that an attempt for a re-



Sun Advocate/Larry Beckner

Fire in Wilberg mine outside Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 people. Company is trying to cover up its responsibility for the disaster.

cord led to this tragedy."

UMWA members, widows, and other community residents here are in general agreement with UMWA International Pres. Richard Trumka, who said, "When a coal operator becomes so concerned with setting short-term coal-production records, safety is made an afterthought and miners are needlessly killed."

Few miners or other community residents here believe the company's story that the fire was an unpredictable "accident." They blame Emery Mining Corp. for reck-

lessly endangering lives and disregarding safety in its drive to boost coal production and profits.

The union victims of this drive were the following:

Bert Bennett, age 37; Ricci Camberlango, 26; Curtis Carter, 29; Robert Christensen, 32; Gordon Conover, 24; Randy Curry, 31; Owen Curtis, 31; Roger Ellis, 28; Brian Howard, 23; Gary Jennings, 33; Lee Johansen, 35; Joel Nevitt, 33; Kelly Riddle, 28; Lynn Robinson, 28; Ray

Continued on Page 10

## D.C. anti-apartheid protests continue

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the new year begins, U.S. economic, political, and military support to South Africa's apartheid regime continues to be an important issue in U.S. politics.

Leaders of the Free South Africa Movement here say 1985 will bring more protests at the South African embassy here and at consulates in other cities.

In South Africa over the holidays the freedom struggle flared with mass protests in eight Black townships in the Johannesburg-Pretoria region. These were met with standard violent repression by the racist authorities.

On December 25, Black youth numbering 1,000 battled with police after returning from tending the graves of people killed in Sharpeville township during the November 1984 strike upsurge. The grave-tending activities were called by the United

Democratic Front, which has been playing an important role in recent mass urban struggles.

The December 28 *Washington Post* reported that at least six Black youths were wounded by police bullets in the December 25 clashes.

Daily pickets of at least 100 were maintained in this city throughout the holiday period. Some 250 people have been arrested in New York and Washington since regular anti-apartheid protests began November 21.

On December 25 a "Jewish Community Vigil" brought out nearly 300 people to the protest site, one block from the apartheid embassy. Working through TransAfrica, the group that helped initiate the Free South Africa Movement, several Jewish organizations and synagogues organized the event.

Randall Robinson, central leader of the Free South Africa Movement, told the *Militant* that protests will escalate starting in January as Congress gathers for its next session. Robinson, who is also the executive director of TransAfrica, commented on reports that South Africa has released some of the hundreds of leaders still being held since the wholesale repression that followed the general strike of Black workers last November 5 and 6.

"There have been no names of any imprisoned labor or political leaders given to us," said Robinson. "South Africa's jails are always full of Black people. It's possible they have released a few people and called them political. We have noted that the name of [imprisoned African National Congress leader] Nelson Mandela has not appeared on any list."

Mandela, imprisoned for 22 years by the

Continued on Page 12

## Behind U.S. lies about Vietnam's offensive

BY TOM LEONARD

Recent military successes by Vietnamese and People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) troops against right-wing guerrilla camps along Kampuchea's border with Thailand have provoked an anti-Vietnam propaganda barrage from the U.S. State Department.

At the center of this propaganda is the charge that Vietnamese troops are bombing, shelling, murdering, and maiming innocent civilians and sending thousands of Kampuchean refugees fleeing into Thailand.

The capitalist news media in the United States has faithfully echoed these State Department lies, while covering up Washington's complicity with and responsibility for the fighting on the Kampuchea-Thailand border.

An example is an editorial that appeared in the December 28 *New York Times*. It said: "Vietnam has earned its reputation as the Prussia of Southeast Asia. After humbling French and American armies, it conquered Laos and Cambodia [Kampuchea], then turned ferociously on its subject peoples. This Christmas week, Vietnam mounted a fresh offensive against Cambodian rebels, driving 63,000 more civilians across the border into Thailand."

The *Times* neglects to point out that Laos, Kampuchea, and Vietnam were all former colonies of France. They fought together to rid their peoples of domination by both French and U.S. imperialism.

### Vietnamese troops enter Kampuchea

Vietnamese troops entered Kampuchea in 1978 to aid Kampuchean rebels fighting the murderous regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge. The Vietnamese army entered Kampuchea only after the Pol Pot regime, with its backing from China, invaded Vietnam, while Chinese troops invaded Vietnam from the north. Both invasions were defeated.

Vietnamese troops easily drove Pol Pot's forces out of most of Kampuchea, and the remains of his army took refuge in Thailand.

With backing from Peking and Washington, Pol Pot's forces have continued to raid Kampuchea, trying to prevent the country's rebirth from the devastation of the Khmer Rouge regime.

The Vietnamese have made annual partial withdrawals of troops from Kampuchea as the PRK army has grown in strength. The remaining Vietnamese troops will leave, Hanoi has stated, when all military aid is withdrawn from the Khmer Rouge.

### Refugee camps

Who are the inhabitants of the camps the capitalist media is defending against Vietnamese and Kampuchean troops?

At the start of the current offensive, more than 250,000 Kampucheans, including 50-60,000 armed guerrillas, lived in the armed camps now under attack, or across the border in Thailand.

Thousands of civilians also live in these base camps. Many are family members or supporters of the guerrillas. But thousands more are forced against their will to remain in the armed camps or the ones in Thailand. This coercive policy is carried out by the guerrilla leaders with Washington's complicity.

The civilians have been used by the guerrillas as a shield against counterattacks by Vietnamese and Kampuchean troops.

Continued on Page 8



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — Over the past eight months *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* teams have been selling the socialist press in front of shops in the garment district here.

There are more than 100,000 garment workers in this city, the overwhelming majority of whom are Mexican. Less than 4 percent of these workers are organized into unions, and sweatshop conditions and violations of minimum wage laws are widespread in the industry.

The majority of garment workers who belong to unions are members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), which is struggling to keep its foothold in the city.

We sell from two to seven *Perspectiva Mundials* when we sell in the garment district, most of them to nonunion workers.

Our most successful sales have been at a large ILGWU shop where there are more than 400 workers. During sales in front of this plant, we sell one or two papers. During the 1984 election campaign we also organized a plant-gate rally there for Silvia Zapata, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 25th C.D. These plant-gate sales have aided the sales on the job by supporters of the SWP. In the past year we have sold more than 100 *Perspectiva Mundials* at this ILGWU shop.

Many workers buy the paper on a regular basis because they are from Central America and are especially interested in *Perspectiva Mundial's* coverage of liberation struggles in that region and Washington's escalating war against the Central American peoples. But most of the papers are sold to Mexican coworkers.

Many workers watch the Spanish-language television channel 34 here. Night after night, channel 34 slanders the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and discussions about Nicaragua and Cuba have helped spark interest in *Perspectiva Mundial*, which tells the truth about these countries.

Paco Sánchez, a national committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance, worked in this plant before he recently became a member of the editorial staff of *Perspectiva Mundial* in New York City. The week before he left his garment job for New York, Sánchez sold 28 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions to his coworkers. Other socialists on the job pitched in and a total of 45 garment workers in the plant bought *Perspectiva Mundial* that week.

Some workers told Sánchez they had noticed the *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Militant* sales teams



Militant  
Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party 1984 vice-presidential candidate, campaigning outside L.A. plant where many garment workers read *Perspectiva Mundial*.

outside the plant and in other parts of the city. While most of these coworkers are not socialists or pro-Sandinista, they are interested in talking about our point of view.

These new subscriptions to *PM* will be important in furthering discussions about the Nicaraguan

revolution and about how U.S. working people can defend our rights.

Seth Galinsky is a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and belongs to ILGWU Local 482 in Los Angeles.

## Opposition increases in Puerto Rico to U.S. war

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

A government official in Puerto Rico announced in December that the Puerto Rican National Guard will participate, along with National Guard units from several states, in Washington's five-month-long Minute Man Two military maneuvers in Panama.

According to the Puerto Rican daily, *El Nuevo Día*, this announcement "differs substantially from the 15 day basic training that the Assistant General [González Vales, head of the Puerto Rican National Guard] spoke of" during a press conference in November.

The question of the Puerto Rican National Guard participating in military maneuvers in Central America has been part of a broader discussion on the island about Puerto Rico's role in the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States. Its people have been dragged into one U.S. war after another since the first world war. The participation of Puerto Ricans in U.S. wars around the world has always provoked discussions on the island. Beginning with the U.S. war in Korea — and especially during the U.S. war in Vietnam — there has been massive opposition on the island to U.S. wars.

The U.S. government's current funding, training, and recruitment of mercenaries to fight against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua has now sparked a new discussion.

In *Claridad*, the weekly newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Julio Vives Vázquez of the PSP's political commission explained that Puerto Rican participation in any U.S. military adventure against Nicaragua would be a confrontation with "our own Latin American brothers," thereby "converting ourselves into murderers of democracy and the right

of peoples to choose their own government."

In *El Reportero*, a daily published in San Juan, Justo Echevarría, a member of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), explained that his party was proud of its support to the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the Nicaraguan people during their struggle against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. "Today," he wrote, "the PIP says it is present in the defense of the Nicaraguan people." The PIP called on all Puerto Rican people to fight against the U.S. war on the Nicaraguan people.

Juan Mari Brás, a longtime leader of the independence movement, wrote in the October 30 *El Reportero* that "it isn't our fault ... that Puerto Rico is one of the principal bases of operation of the projected U.S. military and paramilitary action against Central America." Nevertheless, he wrote, Puerto Ricans must begin to demonstrate to Washington that they reject this role.

The forces that support independence for Puerto Rico have been in the forefront of the discussion against the U.S. war in Central America because they understand that it is the colonial status of Puerto Rico which makes it and its people part of this war. But this discussion is not limited to supporters of independence. The fact that Nicaragua, like Puerto Rico, is a Latin American country has made the sentiment against U.S. intervention deep, forcing various representatives of the capitalist class, which supports U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico, to speak out against the war.

Carlos Acevedo Lazzarini, a former representative from the Popular Democratic Party (PPD) in the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, for example, explained in a December 6 interview with *El Reportero* that Nicaragua is "a brother country and not an enemy."

Severo Colberg Ramírez, speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the PPD, called on the newly elected PPD governor, Rafael Hernández Colon, to stand up to the U.S. government and its policy in Central America, because, he wrote, Puerto Ricans are "a Caribbean and Latin American people."

There is conflict between these capitalist politicians' support for the colonial status which ties Puerto Rico to the United States and its wars, and the pressure to oppose Puerto Rican involvement in any aggression against another Latin American people. This has forced Colberg and others to call on the governor to "strengthen the autonomist ideal," which is what he calls the current status of Puerto Rico, and to "raise our association with the U.S. as one among equals."

But Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States is one of colonial subjugation. General González Vales explained this most clearly in an interview with *El Nuevo Día* at the end of November. He said that the Puerto Rican National Guard is "a military force to confront any threat to the sovereignty of the United States" and is therefore under the command of the U.S. president.

Miguel Hernández Agosto, president of the Puerto Rican Senate — who is not an opponent of the U.S. war in Nicaragua — explained in a radio interview December 2 the problem that the U.S. government faces in any plans to use Puerto Rico and its people against Nicaragua. "The U.S. government," he said, "ought to understand that Puerto Rico is united to Latin America by what we call blood ties."

## Vote totals of left parties in 1984

According to the December 22, 1984, *New York Times*, the Socialist Workers Party slate in the 1984 presidential elections — Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president — was officially credited with 24,687 votes. In 1980, the party was reported as having received 40,105 votes.

In the current election, Gus Hall and Angela Davis, presidential and vice-presidential nominees of the Communist Party, were credited with 35,561 votes. In 1980, their vote was reported as 43,871.

In the 1984 elections, the SWP was on the ballot in 23 states, plus the District of Columbia. It was ruled off the ballot on a trumped-up technicality in New York, and, because of onerous petitioning requirements, did not contest for a ballot place in such key states as California, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

The Communist Party was on the ballot in 22 states plus the District of Columbia.

In the 1984 voting, Dennis Serrette, candidate of the New Alliance Party, was reported as receiving 47,209 votes under the ballot designation Independent Alliance.

Feminist Sonia Johnson was reported as receiving 72,153 votes as Citizen's Party nominee.

Workers World Party nominee Larry Holmes was credited with 15,220 votes.

Ultra-rightist Lyndon LaRouche of the National Democratic Policy Committee was reported to have received 78,773 votes. He ran as an independent after contesting in the Democratic primary elections.

With the exception of the SWP, virtually all the left parties supported the Democrats in the elections.

## The 'Militant' tells the truth—Subscribe today!

That way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from El Salvador and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the United States. Read our proposals on how to stop the

bipartisan U.S. war in Central America and the employer offensive here. Read our ideas on what it will take to replace this system of exploitation, racism, and sexism with a system that's in the interests of working

people.

At the plant gates, picket lines, and unemployment lines, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news, participating in the struggle. To subscribe today, fill out coupon below.



**U.S. OUT OF GRENADA**

☐ Enclosed is \$3 for 12 weeks ☐ Enclosed is \$15 for 6 months  
☐ Enclosed is \$24 for 1 year ☐ Enclosed is a contribution

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Union/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

## The Militant

Closing news date: January 2, 1985

Editor: MALIK MIAH

Managing editor:

MARGARET JAYKO

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Andrea González, Pat Grogan, Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Tom Leonard, Karen Newton, Mohammed Oliver, Harry Ring.

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

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

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for air-mail rates to all other countries.

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



# FSLN leader assesses U.S.-backed war

## Nicaraguans making headway against CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries



Militant José G. Pérez  
Nicaragua's defense minister, Humberto Ortega.

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan people are making headway in the war against U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries, said Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega in a year-end military briefing for reporters here December 26.

"The situation for the counterrevolution in 1984 was more difficult than it was in 1983, even though they continued having support from the United States" and from their bases in Honduras and Costa Rica, said the defense minister.

The year 1985 "will take the mercenary groups to a more difficult and defensive position," he added, but to do this it is necessary to "increase the massive mobilization of the people."

### 1984: war sharply escalated

Ortega noted that the U.S.-sponsored war of aggression was sharply escalated during the year, leading to record numbers of military clashes and casualties. In all, during 1984 there were more than 1,500 attacks, skirmishes, and battles, compared with 900 the year before. The CIA-supported terrorist army suffered more than 4,000 casualties, including 3,000 dead, a big increase from the 1,800 dead and a

total of 2,400 casualties in 1983. Nicaragua's armed forces suffered a total of nearly 1,000 dead, including members of the Sandinista People's Militias and of the Ministry of the Interior engaged in military operations. The figure for 1983 army dead was 300.

Ortega broke down counterrevolutionary or *contra* operations over the year into three periods: January-April, May-October, and November-December. During the first part of the year, the main *contra* group, the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), carried out the so-called *Plan Siembra* (sowing plan). This campaign had three aspects: first, to regroup their forces following several major setbacks they suffered toward the end of 1983; second, to disrupt as much as possible the coffee harvest; and third, to create a mercenary stronghold in the Jalapa-Teotecante area, the northernmost part of Nueva Segovia Department bordering Honduras.

### Enemy plans frustrated

Following this phase, CIA forces tried to develop a "general offensive" throughout Nicaragua. The FDN created its regional commands, which Ortega called a "qualitative change in their organization" because

it involves three or more task forces acting together, rather than each one acting as an independent unit. Each task force has between 200 and 300 men.

"This gave a greater operational capacity to their action and forces," in attempting to carry out a general offensive. In all, during the May-October period seven regional commands were sent into Nicaragua from Honduras.

In addition, the CIA tried to push through a fusion between the FDN — which is led by members of overthrown dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard — and the much less effective Costa Rica-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE). The idea was to strengthen the ARDE units operating in the sparsely populated southeast of Nicaragua and open a new front on the Pacific side of Nicaragua's southern border with Costa Rica.

CIA plans included more or less permanent occupation of entire regions by its regional commands, the temporary occupation of important towns and cities, and the prevention or at least large-scale disruption of the presidential and legislative elections held here November 4.

But "all these enemy plans have been basically frustrated," Ortega said.

The Sandinista leader said that as the year wore on, the counterrevolutionaries "have been adapting their tactics more toward guerrilla-type combat activities, toward irregular combat, avoiding direct confrontations with army forces."

"This means they are not able to carry out their large-scale plans because to take big cities, to be able to take entire departments, they have to concentrate their forces, but in that case, our forces can hit them harder."

### Attacks on civilian population

The most recent counterrevolutionary campaign was called *Plan Nueva Siembra*.

"Given the impossibility of carrying out the general offensive, they make efforts to prevent the coffee harvest and to affect as much as possible social and economic life where their forces are operating," said Ortega. He stressed that this new plan was focused overwhelmingly on attacks on the civilian population in Nicaragua's northern and central departments. "They have unleashed an indiscriminate terror and are increasing kidnappings, especially of young peasants, to be able to maintain the quantitative level of their forces. In the month of November and December alone, there have been more than 600 victims of this criminal mercenary activity against civilians."

For the year as a whole, CIA terrorists kidnapped, maimed, or killed more than 2,000 civilians.

Continued on Page 13

## The story of a Sandinista soldier

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

"Free homeland or death!"  
"From the border, they will not pass!"

Shouting these slogans, Velia Peralta buried her youngest son, Capt. Erwing Vargas Peralta, on Nov. 23, 1984. He was a casualty in the war against Nicaragua conducted by U.S.-organized mercenaries.

This is the third son Velia Peralta lost in the struggle to liberate Nicaragua from U.S. imperialist domination. Her two oldest sons, David and René, died in the revolutionary struggle, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), against the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

Fifty thousand people sacrificed their lives in the struggle to end the poverty, illiteracy, and repression which was part of life for the majority of Nicaraguans under the dictatorship.

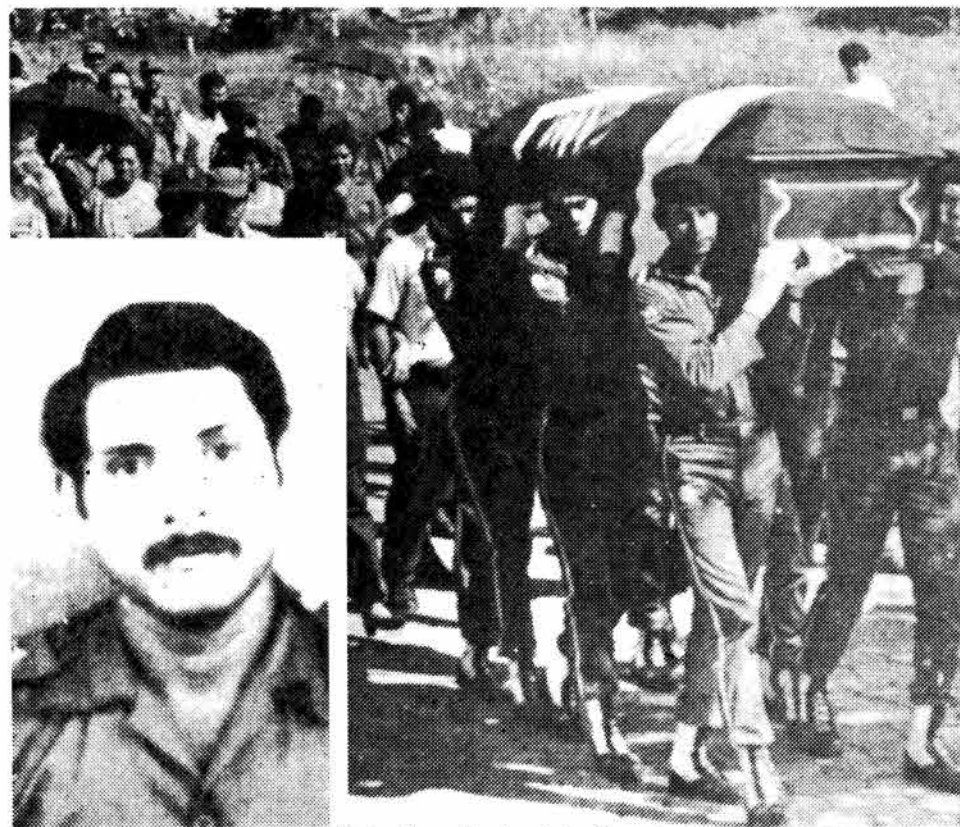
With the victory of the revolution on July 19, 1979, the Nicaraguan people began to make tremendous social and economic gains, as they started to overcome the legacy of Somozaism. The sacrifices demanded of them, however, did not end. The U.S. government is recruiting, funding and training mercenaries to wage war against the Sandinista government. Capt. Erwing Vargas Peralta lost his life as a result of this war. Despite these sacrifices, Velia Peralta, a founder of the Committee of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs, remains firm in her support for the revolution and its defense.

U.S. workers and farmers, especially youth who may be drafted to fight in Central America, might wonder what motivates the Nicaraguan people to sacrifice so much to defend their country.

The story of Erwing Vargas Peralta, who died with nine other soldiers on November 21, 1984, in a helicopter accident while on patrol, helps to answer this.

Vargas Peralta, 30 years old, was a member of the FSLN and a veteran of the Southern Front in the revolutionary war against Somoza. After the revolution he joined the Sandinista People's Army and rose to the rank of captain in the artillery division. He was decorated during his career and was posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander. A memorial to Vargas Peralta, written by William Grigsby Vado in the November 24 issue of the FSLN daily, *Barricada*, told Vargas Peralta's story.

Like many Nicaraguan workers and peasants, Vargas Peralta was not the first or the only member of his family to participate in the struggle against Somoza. Both his brothers were FSLN members and martyrs prior to the victory of the revolution. Vargas Peralta began his political activity



Photos from *Barricada* by Rosendo García and Leonardo Barreto  
Representatives of the Sandinista People's Army, family, and friends attend funeral of Capt. Erwing Vargas Peralta (insert), another casualty of the U.S.-backed war.

as a clandestine messenger for the FSLN through his oldest brother David. The lives of his brothers in the revolutionary movement, and their eventual deaths in the struggle against Somoza, had a tremendous impact on him.

His brother David, a lieutenant in the FSLN rebel army, was murdered by the Somoza National Guard and his body was thrown into the Masaya volcano. Vargas Peralta, while mourning for him, promised himself that he would try to emulate his brother.

While Vargas Peralta was a student in Panama, his brother René was killed in the Segovia mountains. Grigsby wrote that Vargas Peralta felt "defenseless." Only after a time did he realize that he owed it to his brothers and to their party, the FSLN, to demonstrate the same dedication and heroism to the cause that they gave their lives for.

In Panama, Vargas Peralta organized Nicaraguan students. He converted his department at school into a "center of lively agitation," issuing leaflets and banners and even proposing to "take over the headquarters of the Organization of American States" in solidarity with the FSLN's struggle in his native land, wrote Grigsby.

In June 1979, Erwing Vargas, known as Ernesto to his friends, joined the FSLN

forces fighting on the border with Costa Rica — the southern front. He was not without fear when he joined the rebel forces, said Grigsby, but he always led the way forward nonetheless.

Vargas was not the model soldier from the first. Grigsby wrote that, in fact, the only experience Vargas ever talked about from his days on the southern front was being disciplined by his superiors so that "he would learn to respect orders."

Vargas began as a squadron leader. By the end of the revolution he was a sub-lieutenant. Later he was promoted to captain.

In the five years since the victory of the revolution, Vargas Peralta grew to take on the responsibilities of a captain and leadership of the artillery division of the army. But, Grigsby wrote, he never lost his "mischievous smile" which got him into trouble with his superiors.

There was an injustice in the way Vargas Peralta died, said Grigsby. Vargas Peralta, who had spent his whole adult life fighting for Nicaragua, would have "wanted to die dealing blows to the mercenaries."

Addressing himself to Vargas Peralta, Grigsby said, "The only thing that I regret is that I have no photo of you so that you could pass on to me a little of your cheerfulness and your audacity."

## CIA mercenaries attack Red Cross ambulance

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The U.S. government's "freedom fighters" celebrated the holiday season by continuing their treacherous, cowardly attacks against Nicaraguan civilians.

On December 20, CIA-organized mercenaries ambushed a clearly marked Red Cross ambulance near Puerto Cabezas, in the northern part of the Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua.

The terrorists hit the ambulance with rocket, mortar, and rifle fire, totally destroying the vehicle and killing patient Eveling Cayasso. Three Red Cross employees were gravely wounded.

On December 26, mercenaries from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force massacred six civilians, including two young girls and their mother. Two other persons were wounded. The eight persons were riding unarmed in a civilian pickup truck at 8:30 in the morning in an area known as Zompoperas, Jinotega Department.

Of the 7,000 Nicaraguans who have been killed by the U.S. war of aggression, about 3,350 have been minors and 137 have been children under 12 years of age.



# Howard Packer: 40 years in the socialist movement

BY HARRY RING

Howard Packer, a veteran leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago for more than 40 years, died December 18 of cancer. He was 67 years old.

Discussions with half a dozen present and former members of the Chicago SWP evoked a uniform response.

Howard Mayhew, a veteran party builder, was a longtime member of the Chicago SWP and a close associate and friend of Howard Packer.

"Howard was always elected to the branch executive committee," Mayhew recalled.

## 'Well-schooled in Marxism'

"He was well-schooled in Marxism," Mayhew continued. "His classes and lectures were always well attended. People knew he had something to say."

"He was particularly strong on building party institutions," Mayhew added. "He understood the need for selling the party press, doing educational work, and building our forums as a means of advancing the class struggle."

But, Mayhew noted, Howard didn't limit himself to internal activity. He had been a builder of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the early 1960s, when supporters of the Cuban revolution in this country were under heavy pressure.

Packer was also active in the civil rights movement. "During the height of the racist attacks in Cicero in the 1960s," Mayhew said, "there was an increase of racist activity within Chicago itself. Howard, during that time, organized people in his neighborhood to stand up to the racists."

Jim Little, the Chicago SWP organizer today, said, "Howard was a party person in every respect. He was a very skilled chemist, absorbed in his work. And he was the only member of his family who was in the party. But yet he was a solid activist. He attended branch meetings and forums regularly and participated in Saturday community sales of the *Militant*."

"He never missed his weekly plant-gate sale. For the last year he sold at the Hart, Schaffner and Marx clothing plant. It's organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Howard became known to the workers there and he'd usually sell three, four papers."

"I remember going on one sale with him. It was a Chicago blizzard, but Howard was right out there, with his big fur hat on."

## Iranian hostage crisis

Mark Severs was Chicago SWP branch organizer in 1980-81. Recalling Howard, he smiled warmly. "He was very helpful," he said. "He was a political mainstay. I remember particularly during the hysteria that was whipped up around the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980. There were a handful of members of the branch — who were soon to leave the party — who really freaked out under the pressure of the anti-Iran propaganda. Howard played a particularly important role in the discussions we had in the branch, explaining the issues of the Iranian revolution and why the U.S. was out to crush it. He sure helped to educate us on the question."

Steve Clark, editorial board member of the magazine *New Internationalist* and a former Chicagoan, recalled Howard with the same warmth.

"He never talked much about himself," Clark said, "except if there was a political point to be made."

"As I recall, he joined our movement in the early 1940s. I remember him telling me he was drawn to the party through the Civil Rights Defense Committee. The committee had been established to defend the leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis Teamsters who were railroaded to jail during World War II for opposing the imperialist war."

"Howard was not an overbearing person," Clark added. "He never so much as suggested that his ideas should be given any more weight than anyone else's simply because of his years in the movement."

"But he could draw on his own political experiences. One particularly helpful one for us was his recollections of the 1948 presidential campaign of Henry Wallace on the Progressive Party ticket."

## Lessons of Progressive Party experience

This experience was especially useful, Clark recalled, at the time of George McGovern's 1972 campaign as the "peace" candidate of the Democratic party.

"A lot of radicals were sucked in by the McGovern campaign," Clark said. "And others were looking for short cuts by backing such middle class radical hybrids as the Peace and Freedom Party, which was relatively strong at the time."

"In helping equip us politically to deal with the issue of a McGovern on the Democratic ticket, or an Eldridge Cleaver on the Peace and Freedom ticket, Howard drew on the experience of the Progressive Party to explain what a trap capitalist electoral politics is, and what authentic independent working-class politics is."

A capitalist politician, Wallace had left the Democratic Party to accept the Progressive Party nomination as a "peace" candidate. Within the radical movement, the pressure to support him was very strong, even reaching into the SWP. In Chicago, for a period, a majority of the branch favored supporting Wallace, not recognizing that the Progressive Party was, in fact, a third capitalist party, and Wallace, despite his peace rhetoric, simply one more capitalist politician. This was confirmed in 1950 when Washington invaded Korea and Wallace promptly gave his support to this act of imperialist aggression.

"The way Howard drew the lessons of that experience was valuable for the political arguments we were involved in," Clark explained.

Howard Packer absorbed more than the lessons of the Wallace campaign. That was stressed by Elizabeth Stone, an SWP National Committee member now based in California, and a former member of the Chicago branch.

When young people began radicalizing during the 1960s, she observed, the Chicago SWP branch was a going organization, capable of recruiting and integrating them.

## Role in the '50s

By keeping the branch alive and functioning during the difficult days of the 1950s, those like Howard ensured there was such a branch in the 1960s.

"Mayhew and other old-timers would talk about Howard's role during that time," Stone said. "They regarded him as one of those who made it possible for the branch to get through the '50s. He was solid politically and he was an activist. And he was a strong financial supporter of the party at a time when it was especially needed."

"I remember Howard Mayhew telling us how more than once there wouldn't be enough to pay the rent and how Howard Packer could always be counted on to come up with the extra money that was needed."

"The word to describe Howard," Stone said, "is 'stalwart.' He was a party stalwart."

Pearl Chertov, now Washington, D.C., party organizer, spent five years as Chicago organizer in the early '70s. She stressed Howard's role as an educator of young people.

His contribution, she explained, was not simply the classes and lectures he gave, but the many hours he spent helping younger members to prepare to teach classes, give educational talks at branch meetings, and speak at forums.

"He really worked at it," Chertov said. "He developed a number of study guides for people teaching classes. And they were good. Several were sent out by the national party for use by other branches."

"Another thing about Howard," she added, "was that he was open to all young people. He might keep an eye out for someone with special abilities, but he



Howard Packer

never had 'favorites.' He never got bored, he was always patient, and he was a good listener. The young comrades really respected him."

Jack Barnes, the party's national secretary, was a member of the Chicago branch in the early 1960s.

## Politicizing branch meetings

Barnes emphasized a different aspect of Howard's role as an educator. "I think Howard's biggest contribution," he said, "was the political content he gave to branch meetings. He was never satisfied to let branch business be limited to organizational plans and activities. He always looked to bring out the political issues these things were tied to."

Barnes added another point about How-

ard. "Like a number of other old-timers," he observed, "Howard had no big concern about his own individual role and contribution. He derived his greatest satisfaction from the accomplishments of the party. That's why you knew he'd be with the party all the way."

Howard Packer was with the party all the way. That was underlined in a letter he wrote to Howard Mayhew last June, soon after he learned he had cancer.

"I find my reaction to the sudden news of gloom to be surprisingly calm. Of course I had hoped to continue for 10 or 15 years more. But no one can take away the good life I have had, and every life is incomplete. . . ."

"You and I have had good years of struggle in the Party. . . . Comradely, Howard."

# Alabama anti-Klan group forced to pay \$10,000 to Coors

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

In a blow to democratic rights, a federal judge in Birmingham, Alabama, ordered a local civil rights group to pay \$10,000 to the owners of Coors Beer. The ruling came in pretrial proceedings of a libel suit filed by Coors. U.S. District Judge Robert Propst also ruled that Coors' lawyers can take the case to trial in order to seek more damages if they're unsatisfied with the \$10,000 default judgement.

Coors' owners filed suit against the Movement Against Racism and the Klan (MARK), claiming that a slideshow by the group contained a libelous statement about the company. The statement was that Coors "has always been identified with the most right-wing groups such as the Klan."

Coors' attorneys demanded that MARK hand over to them a list of all the places where the slideshow, "Unmasking the Ku Klux Klan," had been shown. The lawyers asserted that they needed such a list to assess the "damage" done to Coors' reputation. Coors has been the target of a long-standing boycott by the AFL-CIO for refusing to bargain with a union, and by Chicano organizations in its home state of Colorado, who are demanding changes in the company's racist hiring practices.

MARK leaders told Propst in their pre-

trial deposition that to provide such a list to Coors would "expose to persecution" individuals and groups that have aided MARK in its work.

Propst, however, ruled that MARK acted in "bad faith and callous disregard" in refusing to disclose its supporters.

In a December 14 news release, Mark Curtis, the Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate for Congress in the 6th Congressional District in the last election, blasted the court ruling. Curtis also sent a letter of solidarity to MARK, calling Propst's decision "an attack on the rights of all."

"Government attempts to find out who supports progressive causes are a longstanding practice, from the court subpoena of NAACP membership lists in the 1950s to the recent Treasury Department demand for the names of people who have traveled to Cuba," explained Curtis.

"The government and right-wing groups use such information not only to persecute past and present supporters," noted Curtis, "but to intimidate future supporters."

Curtis commended MARK's refusal to hand over the lists to Coors. "Your resistance to these witch-hunting techniques of Coors and the court deserves everyone's support," said Curtis.



## 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.



# Chicago teachers, school employees settle strike

## Unions beat back concessions

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO — More than 40,000 teachers and school employees here ended a two-week strike on December 17. Under the new contract, teachers will receive a 4.5 percent salary increase, 2.5 percent one-time bonus to be paid in March, and full medical benefits, which the school board had unilaterally cut on November 16. Details on the agreements with the 17 other unions are not yet available.

A coalition of 18 school employee unions, including the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Service Employees' International Union, Engineers and Custodians Union, and other school personnel, hit the bricks on December 3, shutting the entire Chicago school system down.

The 28,000 teachers and 12,000 other school employees walked out after three months of negotiations with the school board, which offered the teachers a paltry one-quarter of one percent raise and began requiring employees to pay part of their health insurance premiums.

The school board, backed by state and local officials, attempted to use the courts to force employees back to work. The board covered up the available money on hand in its budget and maneuvered to break the unity that the 18 unions in the coalition forged against the school board.

Negotiations had begun on May 3, when the teachers union announced that it would seek a reasonable salary increase and would accept no cutbacks on any level. The school board immediately responded that it had no money and that it would force teachers to accept automatic salary deductions from their paychecks to cover the cost of medical benefits that had previously been paid for by the school board.

In addition, the board announced that it would cut from four to six days out of the school year in order to save money. And the board stated that it wouldn't even begin to consider a salary increase until the summer of 1986.

Since the negotiations began, the school board, headed by George Munoz and composed of tax lawyers, former corporate

bosses, and opponents of school busing for desegregation, pleaded poverty. They claimed a \$65 million deficit in their budget and threatened parents that any raise for the teachers would entail drastic cutbacks in educational programs.

On the eve of the strike, in the face of a determined school employee labor coalition, the school board suddenly announced that it had found some money and was willing to pay back money deducted as well as to continue covering complete medical benefits. But the teacher's union rejected this offer to simply restore a takeback. The union demanded that the board "cut the top" — such as the \$120,000-a-year salary for the school superintendent — to find enough money to give the teachers a 10 percent raise and to restore the full length of the teachers' work year.

Jackie Vaughn, the newly-elected president of the CTU, contended that the money was there all along to settle the issues that provoked the strike.

In an effort to force concessions from the unions and to drive a wedge between the 50 percent Black and Latino teachers union and the mostly white building trades unions in the coalition, Munoz announced on December 12 that he had negotiated a "reasonable" settlement with the teachers but that the other unions were being unreasonable. He specifically cited the engineers union, made up of school maintenance employees, alleging that they were making unreasonable wage demands. In a hypocritical appeal to win sympathy from the Black and Latino communities, Munoz accused these unions of resisting school board suggestions that would add affirmative action measures to promote Blacks, Latinos, and women in the contracts of these unions.

It is true that the engineers union and the other building trade unions out on strike are mostly white, with a small percentage of Blacks and Latinos in the lowest-paid jobs, and virtually no women. This situation must be remedied through affirmative action. However the school board is no champion of affirmative action. Negotiations are slated to continue between the unions and the school board over this question.



The 28,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union and 12,000 other school employees struck on December 3 in response to the school board's move to require employees to pay part of health insurance premiums.

## Postal contract sets up two-tier wage system

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The U.S. Postal Service was successful in forcing a two-tier wage scale on the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, which represent 500,000 postal workers.

The new contract — announced by the chairman of the arbitration panel, Clark Kerr, on December 24 — cuts starting wages for newly hired workers as much as 25 percent. These workers will reach regular pay only after working approximately two and a half years. This two-tier wage scale creates a category of second-class union members who receive less pay for the same job. It serves to divide the work force and weakens the postal workers unions.

The new contract also includes a 2.7 percent yearly wage increase for each of three years and a 5 percent wage increase for the small number of workers currently at the top of the pay scale. The cost-of-living adjustment formula will remain the same as under the old contract.

Postal workers have been working without a contract since July 21, 1984, when negotiations between the unions and the Postal Service broke down. At that time, the Postal Service tried to unilaterally im-

pose a new contract on the postal workers that included a cut in the wages of newly hired workers by as much as one-third the current wage scale, freezing the wages and benefits of those workers already on the job, substantial limitations on the cost of living adjustment formula, and restriction of premium pay for Sunday and night work.

The unions successfully pushed back this string of concessions. But they were forced to submit to binding arbitration by federal law when no agreement was reached by Oct. 19, 1984. This was a blow to the right to collective bargaining — a right the postal unions won only after a bitter strike in 1970.

Although the government was not able to get all of its takeback demands, the unions were forced into the two-tier wage scale. The chief arbitrator tried to cover up the real content of this concession by calling it a "unitary" pay structure since, he explained, new workers can eventually catch up to the wages of those already on the job.

Officials of the American Postal Workers and National Association of Letter Carriers expressed satisfaction with the settlement.

## Balto. hospital workers set back

BY ROBERT JOHN

BALTIMORE — Twelve hundred hospital workers, members of District 1199E, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers, returned to work December 12 after a week-long strike against three area hospitals — Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC), Sinai, and Lutheran. The key issue that provoked the walkout was management's demand that hospital workers begin making monthly payments toward their health-care benefits while offering only 10-15-cent-an-hour pay increases. Hospital workers here make from \$6 to \$7 an hour.

Once the strike began, the key issue quickly became union-busting. Sinai hired scabs and fired 60 strikers and GBMC threatened to use the same strategy. In the face of this assault, workers at both hospitals ratified contracts that included 15-cent-an-hour pay raises and the imposition of insurance premium payments ranging from

\$10 to \$27 a month. In addition, management at GBMC forced the union to accept an open-shop clause in their contract. This is the first time a major hospital has been able to win this concession. GBMC workers also lost the right to arbitrate promotions.

Union members at Lutheran ratified a contract December 10 along similar lines but with lower premium payments. Earlier, 1199E members at Johns Hopkins Hospital voted to accept a two-year contract with a 2.75 percent pay increase and an in-house health-care plan involving no employee contributions. About 1,400 union members work there.

Health-care benefits are a particularly sensitive issue for 1199E. After a 12-day strike in 1980, the union was forced to give up participation in the national union benefit plan and instead have benefits negotiated hospital-by-hospital.

Spirited picket lines were organized by 1199E at all three struck hospitals, although no attempt was made to stop scabs, patients, or visitors from entering. Signs reading "Be fair to those who care" were most popular among the majority-Black union members.

Rallies attended by more than 150 union members and supporters were organized every day from December 1-9 at each of the struck hospitals. Union president Ron Hollie and more than 50 strikers were arrested while attempting to enter hospital grounds to speak to management.



## Fed up with Reagan's lies about Nicaragua? — Come see Nicaragua for yourself!

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., provides an opportunity to view the accomplishments of the Nicaraguan revolution.

You will visit factories and agricultural communities; meet with activists from the unions, women's and youth organizations; learn about economic planning, health care, education, and the arts. You will see firsthand the effects of the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua and the efforts the people are making to defend their country.

Choose an 8-day tour that visits cities on the Pacific Coast or a 15-day tour that includes a visit to the Atlantic Coast at Bluefields.

**Sandino Days Tour**  
**May Day Tour**

**Feb. 17-24 or Feb. 17-March 3**  
**April 28-May 5 or April 28-May 12**

**Tour Cost** \$700 8 days from Miami  
\$950 15 days from Miami

A \$150 deposit reserves a space with full payment due 30 days prior to departure. Space is limited to 20 people. Participants must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after the date of entry into Nicaragua. Write to: Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., 410 West St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014 (212) 929-8994.

### Labor News

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.



# U.S. union officials demand South Africa release prisoners

## Protest 'brutal repression'

Recently, 31 high-ranking U.S. trade union officials sent a telegram to South African president Pieter Botha protesting the apartheid regime's brutal repression of that country's Black population.

Among the signers of the November 30 telegram were Owen Bieber, president of the United Auto Workers; William Bywater, president of the International Union of Electronic Workers; William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Joseph Misbrenner, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Lynn Williams, president of the United Steelworkers of America; and William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists.

The telegram protested "the brutal repression your government has inflicted on the black labor movement and others employing peaceful methods to achieve justice and democracy."

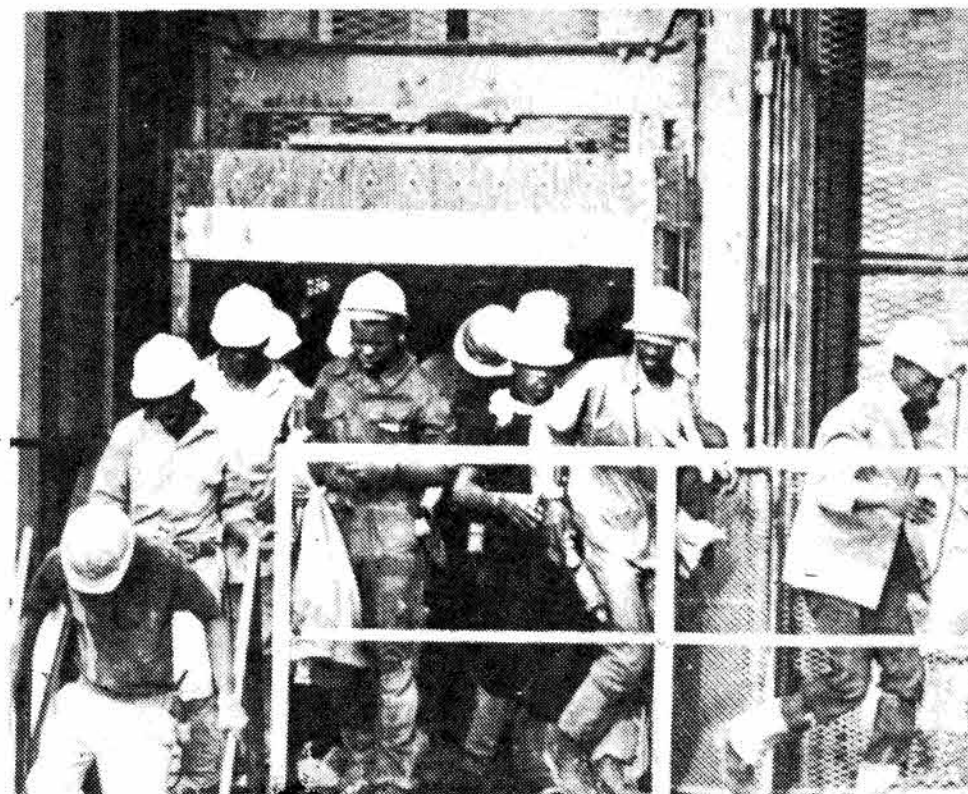
The trade unionists demanded "the immediate release of Chris Dlamini, president of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU); Piroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa; Cyril Rhanaphosa, president of the National Union of Mine Workers; Moses Mayekiso, a member of the FOSATU national executive; Jothro Dlalisa, of the Transport and General Workers Union; and Themba Nonhalantane of the Municipal Workers Union.

"We likewise demand the release of Kate Philip, president of the National Union of South African Students; Guy Berger, of the United Democratic Front; and all others detained for their alleged in-

justice.

"We also note with great alarm the dismissal of 6,000 workers at the government-owned SASOL plant in the Transvaal because they withheld their labor for two days to protest the police and military violence which has cost over 150 people their lives. As these workers make up the bulk of the membership of the FOSATU chemical workers affiliate, their firing is, for all practical purposes, an attempt to break the union."

The labor officials ended their telegram by pledging their "continued and increased support for those who seek democracy in South Africa."



Black workers at South African gold mine. U.S. trade union officials are demanding release of Cyril Rhanaphosa, president of the National Union of Mine Workers, and the other political prisoners arrested during general strike last November.

## Unionists report on Nicaragua tour

BY CAROLE BRUCE AND PACO SANCHEZ

LOS ANGELES — A successful meeting was held at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union hall here that featured a report-back from a recent U.S. trade union delegation to Nicaragua. More than 130 people attended the November 30 meeting, including members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Service Employees' International Union (SEIU); American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); International Association of Machinists; United Electrical Workers; and Carpenters. Twelve national, state, and local union leaders participated in the eight-day tour, which took place last Sep-

tember.

Sumi Huru, national recording secretary of the Screen Actors Guild, discussed the social progress that has been made in Nicaragua since the 1979 revolution. Huru cited gains for unions, women, Blacks, and Indians. Huru, who is Black, said that she felt at home in Nicaragua, where there are laws against racist and sexist practices. "Even though I was born in New Jersey 45 years ago, and I don't have an accent, I still feel foreign in the U.S. because of racism."

The Nicaraguan government, she said, has the support of the Nicaraguan workers and functions in their interests. Huru said U.S. working people should get the U.S. government to "stop interfering into the affairs of Nicaragua."

A slide presentation was given by Dena

Kanner, president of AFSCME Local 3235.

After the slideshow, Sandra Cooper-Morgan, president of SEIU Local 535, spoke about the effects of the U.S. war against Nicaragua on working people. She urged the U.S. labor movement to educate itself about Central America.

Nicaragua, she said, launched a literacy campaign to teach its population to read. The U.S. labor movement needs to launch a "literacy campaign" to learn about Nicaragua. "This is a war aimed at the people of Nicaragua with the aim of undermining their support for the government... the objective is to overthrow the Sandinista government."

She noted that the leading cause of death of workers in Nicaragua is attacks by U.S.-organized mercenaries.

Like the other panelists, Cooper-Morgan felt that Nicaragua is doing what it can to initiate peace, but that Washington responds with antagonism. "Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Lyndon Johnson, and John Kennedy didn't want peace... we've always been at war." She said that the people of Nicaragua should be free to build their revolution and become an example for the rest of the world.

Cooper-Morgan pointed out that her union had just passed a resolution against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. She encouraged other unions to start solidarity in this way too: "... the time to express opposition is now."

## L.A. Black party discusses crime and cops

BY OLLIE BIVINS

LOS ANGELES — Over the past two months there have been a number of articles in the local media about "crime" in the Black community. The focus has been on violence by youth gangs and drug trafficking. News coverage on this issue reached its height with last month's gang-related murders of the family of former professional football star Kermit Alexander.

On November 30, the Los Angeles chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) sponsored a forum titled "Black-on-Black crime: Are more police the solution?" Speakers were Greg Jackson, cochair of L.A. NBIPP; Sister Sabida, representing the Us organization, which is headed by Maulana Karenga; and James Johnson of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Sister Sabida began the forum by stating her view that youth gangs exist because of the absence of strong male role models in Black families. She pointed to the popularity of rock stars Prince and Michael Jackson as examples of what she called the "degeneration" of the Black male. She called for a cultural revolution to revitalize the Black movement.

Johnson, from the SCLC, said that recent incidents of violence have been sensationalized by the media. He called for community control of the police to help combat cop violence against Blacks.

NBIPP leader Jackson blasted capitalist politicians' proposals for more cops in the Black community. The Democrats and Republicans use their "law and order" campaigns to beef up the state's repressive forces. The function of cops, said Jackson, is to keep Blacks, Chicanos, and all working people in line.

Cop terror, said Jackson, is aimed at working people rather than the real criminals in this society — the businessmen who profit from the drug trade, the bosses responsible for massive unemployment and

the misery it causes, the bankers getting fat on profits made by exploiting workers and farmers. The employers also carry out criminal imperialist wars in which millions are slaughtered.

Turning his attention to Black youth gangs, Jackson said they reflected youth's alienation from this racist society. "Our history," said Jackson, "shows that when we are struggling [against racism] our youth struggle with us and are some of the best fighters. We must begin to organize

their legitimate disgust at the way things are into a constructive movement for change... That is what we founded NBIPP to do."

This forum was the third in a series of monthly meetings sponsored by NBIPP. Previous meetings dealt with Democrat Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign and the U.S. invasion of Grenada. The next forum will be about South Africa and will take place January 18. For more information call (213) 734-3981.

## 'IP' on Nicaragua farmers association

One of the central tasks of the Nicaraguan revolution since 1979 has been to build an alliance between the workers and peasants. As part of this effort, the Sandinista government carried out a campaign in the second half of 1984 to strengthen the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG).

The forthcoming, January 21, issue of *Intercontinental Press* includes major excerpts from an October 5 news conference by UNAG president Daniel Núñez.

Núñez explains that the UNAG is open to all producers who support the revolution. "We can seriously guarantee that 90 percent of the producers of this country are affiliated to UNAG in one way or another," he states, including small and medium peasants, cooperative members, those employed in the publicly owned sector, and a portion of the large private landowners.

Núñez points out, however, that progress in the countryside is impossible without an end to the U.S.

government-sponsored counter-revolutionary attacks.

The current issue, dated Dec. 24, 1984, includes a complete index of all the articles, documents, and speeches published in *IP* over the past year.

*Intercontinental Press* is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

Enclosed is ☐ \$7.50 for 3 months. ☐ \$15 for 6 months. ☐ \$30 for 1 year.

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Clip and mail to Intercontinental Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

**INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS**  
imprecor

**New Caledonia Fights for Independence From French Rule**

**Poland**  
Three Years After  
Bureaucracy's Crackdown  
on Workers Movement

**Australia**  
Labor Government  
Elected to  
Another Term

Speech by Luis Carrion  
**Nicaragua Mobilizes Against U.S. Aggression**



# Black vets condemn U.S. war

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — "Nicaragua: A New Vietnam?" was the topic of a lively forum here December 8. The forum was presented by the Atlanta chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). More than 60 people, mostly Black youth, attended the gathering. Among them were about 25 Blacks from the predominantly Black Morehouse College, including several students in the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Originally the forum was to focus on hearing Black Vietnam veterans speak out on the issue of the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua. The forum discussion, however, became broader, also addressing the present situation in South Africa.

Joe Sherman, from WRFG radio, went over his experience as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam. Sherman said, "I went there thinking I was fighting communism. I was a chump for going. I was angry at myself, then angry at the government, then I decided to act. I survived Vietnam because I acquired a feeling of love for the Vietnamese. That's because I began to see their struggle as my struggle. Coming from Harlem I saw the only thing missing [in Harlem] were the tanks. Otherwise, Vietnam was the same as Black America. They are us — poor people of the earth just like us."

Sherman explained how he's had 54 jobs since 1969. "We fought and died in America's wars and still can't live, get loans, or jobs that we want. We're still not Americans," said Sherman. He told the audience he didn't want any young brothers to be victims of an imperialist war. "The military will use you," said Sherman, "chew you up and spit you out and you have no say." Sherman ended saying, "America can't win in Nicaragua or El Salvador."

Rev. Emory Searly, from Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), was scheduled to speak, but had to attend a World Peace Conference in Athens, Greece. In his place Searly sent Ann Coco, another CALC representative.

Coco, who had recently been in Nicaragua, explained some of the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution. She also quoted from an article written by Searly that appeared in the *Georgia Peace and Justice Report*. The article describes Searly's experiences as a Black man in Vietnam.

"As a young man," wrote Searly, "I watched President Johnson on TV when he said we were going to win in Vietnam. The

outlook was positive, and he was going to stop the war by sending over the First Cav — the largest number of U.S. troops sent to Vietnam at any one time. I was one of those 15,000 men.

"As company clerk, my job in Vietnam was to type the morning report. . . . Soon, I was typing out information about the deaths of the friends I had made on that ship coming over.

"At the same time we would hear the news from home. Selma. Montgomery. Blacks and whites were pouring into the streets, marching and sitting in and demonstrating for our right to eat in the restaurant of our choice, sit in the front of the bus, attend the school of our choice — even vote.

"And so I was torn, thinking about being Black in the army in Vietnam while all that was going on at home. Some of us began to wonder if we were shooting at the right folks."

Sofiso Mahkatini from the African National Congress of South Africa brought solidarity greetings from the Black masses of South Africa to the fighting people of Nicaragua.

Maurice Williams from Atlanta NBIPP also spoke. Williams explained the eco-

nomie drive that compels the imperialists to wage war. In that context he explained that the war in Central America and the Caribbean is not just the policy of Reagan. "It's the policy of the U.S. capitalists and their government," noted Williams. "It's the imperialist policy of both the Democrats and Republicans."

Williams read from the part of the Black party's charter that explains how both capitalist parties use their power to maintain racism and exploit working people. He urged those present to join the NBIPP to fight for a better society based on "a new social and economic order where the land, natural resources, industry, and technology are publicly owned, planned, and operated for the economic and social benefit of Black, poor, and working people, who are the majority of the population."

A very lively discussion and debate followed the talks, touching on whether capitalism was progressive and why Black youth shouldn't fight in U.S. wars of aggression.

Participants from local community struggles were also present. One group explained their opposition to the plans of Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and real es-



Magnum/Philip Jones Griffiths  
**Black soldier during Vietnam War. Many Black Vietnam veterans believe that Blacks shouldn't have to fight against people of Central America.**

tate developers to forcibly remove Black residents from the area surrounding the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in order to construct high-priced condominiums. The activists appealed for vocal opposition to this gentrification plan.

Several signed up for more information about NBIPP. A number of copies of NBIPP's charter, Malcolm X posters, and the NBIPP newsletter put out by the Manhattan chapter were sold.

## California protests hit INS raids

BY SARA MATTHEWS

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Two hundred people marched downtown on December 8 to protest a series of raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) here. As the protesters marched among holiday shoppers, they chanted "INS Go Away" and "Raza Si! Migra No!" By the end of the march the demonstration had swelled to 300.

The march and rally were initiated by the Centro de la Familia. The meetings to plan the protest attracted dozens of Mexicans, including Mexican farm workers, as well as supporters of the Equal Rights Congress, the Migrant Media Education Project, Central America solidarity committees, and other political organizations.

Participants in the bilingual rally included the mayor of Santa Cruz, Marti Wormhaudt, who drew repeated applause when she declared that, "in Santa Cruz we are of the conviction that documented or not, people have the right to protections of

the Constitution of the United States. . . .

"Nobody has the right to terrorize people. Nobody has the right to enter houses without a search warrant. Nobody has the right to endanger children and sick people. And nobody has the right to harass poor people who are standing in line waiting for food."

Wormhaudt was referring to the series of raids by the INS in Santa Cruz in October of last year. During these raids, INS vans roared the wrong way down one-way streets into the Latino community, endangering children who were playing outdoors.

When some residents sought refuge from the INS in their homes, agents pursued them inside, where they were handcuffed and hauled off in vans.

One man who was outside holding his small son was ordered by INS agents to put the child down. They then handcuffed him and took him away, leaving the boy crying alone on the street.

During another raid INS agents arrested people standing in line at the Centro de la Familia waiting for free food.

The raids in Santa Cruz make up only one part of the stepped-up INS harassment of the Mexican communities, especially

those in the central valley of California. Throughout the valley, local police working with the INS have blocked off streets frequented by Mexicans. They have locked the doors of restaurants and bars in the Mexican communities, letting the patrons out only if they could show proper immigration papers.

In response to INS attacks, organizers of the Santa Cruz protest joined 75 others at a regional organizing conference of the Equal Rights Congress in Merced, California, on the December 1 weekend.

During the conference, farm workers described other forms of harassment that Mexican workers in the valley face, including the illegal demand made at unemployment offices to see the immigration papers of laid-off Mexican workers before they are given their checks.

Farm workers pointed out that these raids coincide with the end of the harvest season. The INS tries to force immigrant workers back to Mexico once they have picked the crops and assured the big ranchers their profits for another year.

The conference decided to organize public hearings on INS abuses and to pressure members of Congress to participate in these hearings.

## Newark march blasts apartheid

BY DAVE PRINCE

NEWARK, N.J. — Anti-apartheid protesters demanded an end to U.S. support for the racist South African regime at a December 18 demonstration and rally here. The spirited demonstration of 80 people began with a well-received march through downtown Newark, and culminated in a noon rally at the Federal Building.

Among the largely Black participants were Newark-area civil rights activists and peace and church groups, as well as Democratic party politicians. Also marching was a group of Rutgers University students involved in a struggle at the Newark campus to get the university to divest itself of holdings in companies that do business in South Africa.

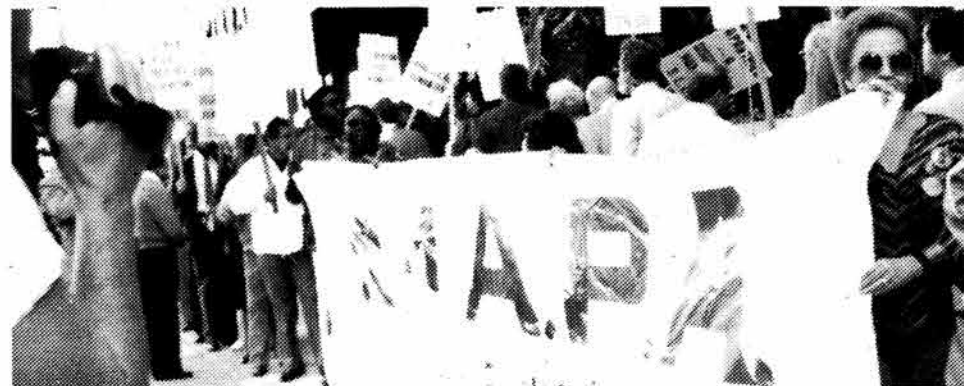
The rally to "Free South Africa, Stop Budget Cuts" was sponsored by Black rights and peace groups — the People's Organization for Progress, New Democratic Association, Rainbow '84, and Greater

Newark Jobs With Peace.

As in other U.S. actions, the demonstration focused on demands to release South African trade union leaders detained without charges, opposition to the U.S. government's support to the South African regime, and opposition to apartheid.

At the end of the rally eight of the demonstrators conducted a sit-in at the Federal Building. They included Rev. Arthur Jones, president of the New Democratic Association; Rahway councilman Jerry Coleman; Lawrence Hamm, president of the People's Organization for Progress; and Rev. William Rutherford, president of the Irvington, New Jersey, branch of the NAACP. Trespassing charges against the protesters were dropped the following day.

Organizers of the action are planning future activities in January. Black student leaders at the Rutgers Newark campus are planning a February Black history month program focusing on divestment and the struggle against apartheid.



Militant/Carole Lesnick  
**Protests continue against U.S. support for South African apartheid. Pictured above is banner of Mexican American Political Association in recent trade union-organized protest in Los Angeles.**

## Fight for equal education in Cincinnati

BY MORRIS STARKS

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Federation of Teachers (CFT) wants uniform course offerings for all seventh and eighth graders written into its new contract with the Board of Education.

A recent union survey of 18 public schools revealed that some courses available to seventh and eighth graders at predominantly white schools are not available at predominantly Black schools.

- Three of the four schools that do not offer a foreign language are largely Black.
- Five of the six schools that do not offer an algebra course are largely Black.
- Four of the five schools that do not offer typing or other business courses are largely Black.
- Three of the four schools that no longer offer industrial arts are largely Black.
- Two of the three schools that no longer offer home economics are largely Black.

The CFT, now in contract negotiations with the school board, wants a guarantee that a foreign language, algebra, typing, home economics, and industrial arts will be available to all seventh and eighth graders.

The school board's record on equal education for Black children is not good. Cincinnati's public schools are highly segregated, despite last year's out-of-court settlement of a 1973 NAACP desegregation lawsuit.

While 57 percent of Cincinnati's school enrollment is Black, only 10 of the more

than 80 public schools have even roughly that ratio of Blacks to whites. Twenty schools are virtually all Black, while seven schools are virtually all white.

Last year's settlement of the 11-year-old NAACP desegregation lawsuit was not a victory. Its key features are a rejection of both a school-by-school standard of desegregation and any mandated form of pupil transfer. This means no busing. It also means that individual schools may be almost all Black, so long as the segregation level of the system as whole goes down.

Under the desegregation plan incorporated into the settlement, the degree of segregation in an individual school or the system as a whole is measured by the "Taeber Index." The Taeber Index measures the extent to which a school reflects the racial composition of the community. An all-Black or all-white school would have an index of 100, while a school that accurately reflects the racial composition of the community would have one of 0.

The settlement mandates a Taeber Index of 36 for the school system as a whole, to be reached in seven years. At that time there can still legally be some virtually all-Black and all-white schools in Cincinnati.

**Subscribe today.**

The Militant, 14 Charles Lane,  
New York, N.Y. 10014.



# Behind U.S. lies on Vietnam's offensive

Continued from front page

The *Christian Science Monitor*, which is hostile to Vietnam, felt compelled to acknowledge this fact in a December 28 article, noting that "when an organization intermingles soldiers and civilians as the Kampuchians have done in the border camps, it risks endangering the civilians."

Under the guise of providing "humanitarian" aid to Kampuchean refugees, Washington and the United Nations have been pouring aid into the rightist bases. Last September the State Department announced it was increasing its aid from \$9.5 million to \$14 million a year. One news report described how these "humanitarian" funds are used. "Most guerrilla camps are not self-sufficient in food. They are largely dependent on civilians living in the camps; many of them are their relatives. The civilian refugees in turn are fed by the United Nations Border Relief Fund Organization. Once the guerrillas and the civilians are separated, the guerrillas start to have food problems."

## Washington feeds right-wing troops

U.S. food aid, which Washington claims is used to feed starving Kampu-

chean refugees, is actually feeding the right-wing guerrillas.

The U.S. government is abusing refugee rights in still another way by refusing to grant immigration status to Kampuchians trying to leave the armed camps and refugee centers in Thailand.

The Khao I-Dang refugee camp in Thailand, for example, now holds 32,000 Kampuchians, most of whom are trying to emigrate to the United States. But the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is trying to maintain a civilian base for right-wing guerrillas by refusing or holding up refugee requests for immigration status.

## Rightist guerrillas: shaky coalition

The rightists trying to overthrow the Kampuchean government are organized in a shaky coalition of three political groupings that operate some 20 armed camps inside Kampuchea. When not marauding and killing inside Kampuchea, political differences between the warring factions have often led to shooting up each other's troops.

The largest faction is the Khmer Rouge, which claims to have more than 30,000 armed guerrillas organized in 10 camps.



Workers in a bottle factory in Phnompenh, capital of Kampuchea. Economy of country is slowly improving despite right-wing guerrilla attacks.

# Family blasts investigation

Continued from back page

cial autopsy "showed there were signs of a struggle. Ed had bruises up his arms and legs like someone was holding him down."

Lam's defense attorney, Alan May, accounts for these bruises with the theory that Cooperman and Lam were horsing around with a gun kept in the office when it accidentally went off, Klaasje said. The gun, however, did not belong to Cooperman, but "was traced to a man with a Hispanic name from a neighboring town."

Another aspect of the investigation has been the personal and scientific files Professor Cooperman kept in his office. Bob said that his request to be present when the police went through his brother's office was simply denied by the district attorney. The police now have all the files. And while the family has not seen the files, May has been given total access to them.

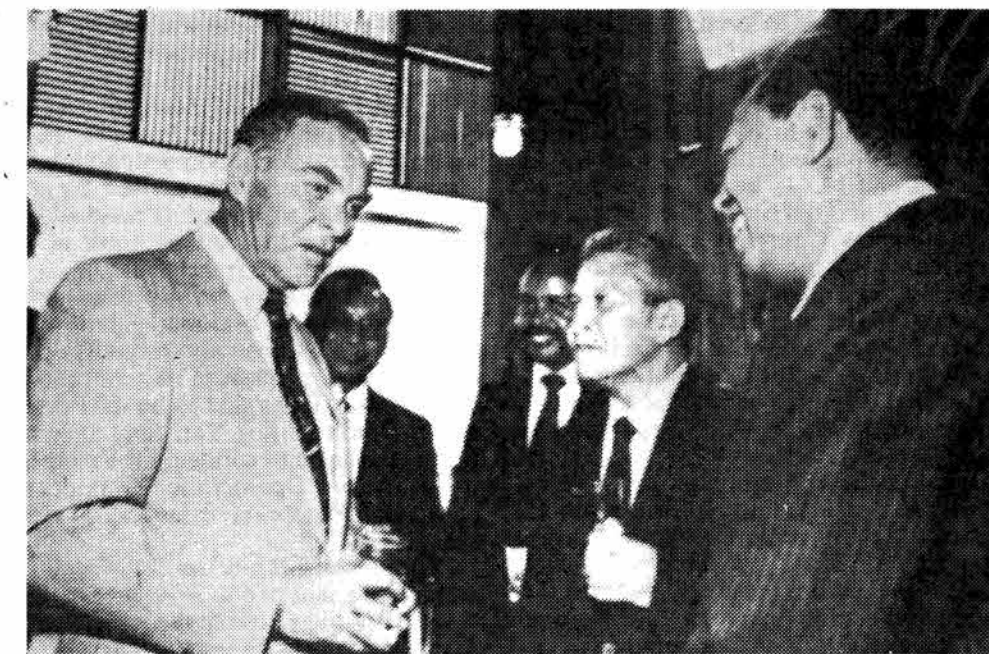
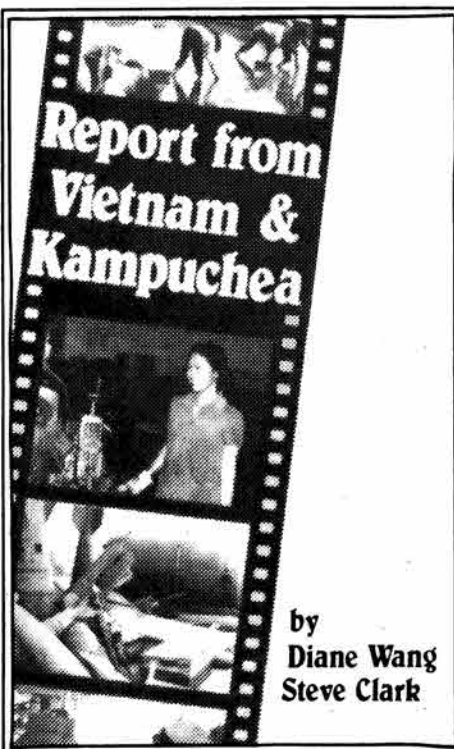
The files contain important scientific information. "I think he [Edward Cooperman] was very close to proving scientifically that Agent Orange was responsible for the cancer, the deformed children" in Vietnam and among U.S. veterans of that war, said Klaasje. "All the information was in his office. We will never know what they took, what they changed."

For months before his murder, said Klaasje, Edward Cooperman had been receiving death threats. When he went to the FBI for protection, they told him to get a gun. "From my way of thinking," Bob Cooperman said, "the FBI or CIA is involved if only because they didn't do what they were supposed to do to keep him from getting killed." Each step of the way all inquiries about the killing have been blocked by the police, the district attorney, and the coroner. Bob believes "someone is pulling strings so that information won't get out. I want to know who is pulling strings."

The trial in this case is scheduled to begin January 14.

"No matter what the outcome we will have to find out [the truth] ourselves," said Klaasje. She and the Committee for Justice for Professor Edward Cooperman are seeking resolutions and letters from unions, scientific organizations, and individuals demanding a full investigation of the murder. "The more pressure they get from outside," Klaasje explained, "the more they will have to answer."

Statements of support and financial contributions can be sent to the Committee for Justice for Professor Edward Cooperman, P.O. Box 753, Venice, California, 90291.



Former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig (left) meeting with Pol Pot's brother-in-law Ieng Sary (right). U.S. State Department is trying to hide its support to Pol Pot mass murderers.

Next in size is the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) with eight camps. The smallest faction, led by former Kampuchean ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk, controls two camps.

These three political factions have a lot in common, the first being that none has popular support among the more than 7 million workers and peasants in Kampuchea who are struggling to rebuild their country.

The leaders of the coalition all participated in previous Kampuchean governments and share responsibility for the hunger and devastation that the PRK is now working to overcome.

The genocidal record of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge is well-known. While Pol Pot's barbarous regime was in power from 1975 until it was overthrown in 1979, it was responsible for the deaths of as many as 3 million Kampuchians. They died from starvation, forced labor, or were executed.

The leader of the KPNLF guerrillas, Son Sann, is a right-wing proimperialist former banker in Kampuchea. For a time Son Sann was Prince Sihanouk's prime minister.

Sihanouk ruled Kampuchea until he was overthrown by a U.S.-backed coup in 1970. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975 he then supported the Pol Pot government, which later murdered some of his family and held Sihanouk himself under house arrest for years. Despite his personal experience with the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk has again joined forces with them.

This political cabal — a despotic prince, a right-wing banker, and a mass murderer — is the titular leadership of the coalition that Washington, its proimperialist allies in Southeast Asia, and Peking would like to impose on the Kampuchean people.

## U.S. government and Khmer Rouge

The U.S. State Department has tried to keep its public distance from the Khmer Rouge forces. Last September, for example, the department issued a statement saying: "We give no support of any kind to, or have no contact with, the Khmer Rouge, whose past atrocities we continue to abhor."

This is a blatant lie. Every year since Pol

Pot's overthrow in 1979, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations has voted to keep Kampuchea's UN seat in the hands of Pol Pot's forces.

In 1982 Washington and its proimperialist allies in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) forced Son Sann and Sihanouk into a "coalition government" with Pol Pot to make the guerrillas more palatable.

But since the formation of that coalition, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge has been and remains the dominant force. As recently as July 1984, Secretary of State George Shultz told a closed meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers that "the U.S. supports and will continue to support the coalition."

While the U.S. government sends aid to feed the right-wing guerrilla camps, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, with material help from Vietnam and the Soviet Union, is making steady progress in rebuilding Kampuchea's economy.

One of the remarkable accomplishments of the PRK has been its ability to raise an army of over 30,000 after 30 years of imperialist war and destruction.

Contrary to reports in the capitalist news media, it is PRK troops who are dealing the blows to right-wing guerrillas in the current fighting. This was confirmed by Hoang Bich Son, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations.

Son told a January 3 press conference in New York City that the frontline troops leading the attack are Kampuchians who are backed up by a second line of both Kampuchean and Vietnamese volunteers.

## L.A. meeting honors slain Vietnam solidarity activist

Continued from back page

munity League of Orange County. An adviser to that group organized the 1977 disruption of Cooperman's film showing.

During Lam's pretrial hearing, May claimed Cooperman tricked Lam into shooting him while the two were playing with the gun. May asserted that Cooperman wanted to die because he was known to be embezzling funds for a UN-sponsored project he was directing.

Fullerton police say Lam was responsible for the killing, but that it was "nonpolitical."

After the killing, police seized several cases of files from the professor's office. May was given access to the files and claims to have found evidence of unusual sexual practices involving Vietnamese men.

Cooperman's defenders deny all May's charges, calling them a smokescreen designed to head off a serious investigation of the case and designed to discredit Cooperman's work and that of the Committee for Scientific Cooperation With Vietnam.

Other speakers at the meeting included attorney Larry Teeter; Trevor Fowler, secretary of the Southern California chapter of the African National Congress; and representatives from the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, November 29th Committee for Palestine, Southern California Federation of Scientists, and Jews United for Justice. A message from Jesse Jackson was read.

## New from Pathfinder Press —

## Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea

By Diane Wang and Steve Clark.

The authors spent three weeks in Vietnam and Kampuchea and wrote this compilation of articles that originally appeared in the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*. This pamphlet covers the advances made in the post-war reconstruction of these two countries, and Kampuchea's recovery from the devastation brought by the Pol Pot regime.

It contains valuable lessons for the fight against Washington's new Vietnam-style war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Price: \$2.

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



# U.S. auto worker on British miners strike

Andrew Pulley is a member of United Auto Workers Local 189 in Detroit. When his local went out on strike in December, Pulley took the opportunity to travel to Britain to express his solidarity with the striking coal miners there. While in Britain, he also met striking Ford workers (see story elsewhere on this page).

BY ANDREW PULLEY

I visited Britain for a week in December to learn more about the coal miners strike, which is now entering its 10th month. This trip was possible because my local of the United Auto Workers in Detroit was on strike against Aetna Industries, a maker of auto parts chiefly for General Motors.

While in Britain, I attended a conference in solidarity with the miners strike organized by supporters of the weekly newspaper, *Socialist Action*. Speakers included railroad workers, young miners, a representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada, and myself. Eighty people participated, including 16 rail workers, mostly from Coalville, where they are blocking the transportation of coal mined by scabs. Fifteen striking miners also participated.

## Miners determined

While the overwhelming majority of miners are on strike throughout Britain, 30,000 of the miners in the regions where the mines are more productive and wages are higher are scabbing. Given the cop assaults, widespread arrests, and government attempts to bribe union members — Britain's mines are nationalized — by offering £1,400 (£1 = U.S. \$1.16) as a holiday bonus to those who would return to work, the number still on strike is a testimony to the militancy and determination of the majority of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) members.

The government is also failing to convince workers to sell their jobs. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party government is offering £1,000 per year of service to any miner who will sell his right to his job. This would be a lot of money, especially for older miners near retirement. Showing class consciousness and solidarity with young workers, the striking miners have overwhelmingly rejected this trap as well.

Even though the level of trade union solidarity has not been sufficient to defeat the government, it has been decisive in helping to provide for strikers' family needs and keeping up morale.

The miners don't get strike pay. So the NUM's efforts to raise funds in conjunction with miners' wives support committees, other unions, and the Labor Party are key.

For example, I joined 300 people picketing the huge Tilbury power station outside London at 6 a.m. on December 9. We were

able to turn back a couple of trucks bringing oil. Local NUM and Labor Party leaders addressed the gathering and used the opportunity to collect funds on the miners' behalf.

Support rallies occurred in London and all over Britain almost daily while I was there. I participated in one organized by the Lambeth Miners Support Committee. The committee consists of the Labor Party, area trade unions, and left political parties.

## Support rally in Lambeth

More than 500 people filled Lambeth Town Hall. Lambeth is one of many boroughs in London administered by the Labor Party. Borough leader Ted Knight blasted the national government's austerity drive against the miners and other working people.

"The Tories [Conservatives] plan to cut back services to Lambeth, threatening our community, the elderly, and unemployed in similar fashion as they are threatening the miners and their communities," Knight said. "We have learned from the miners that there are only two possible responses: either we capitulate or we fight. And we are not going to capitulate."

I was introduced as a striking auto worker representing "the other America of Blacks and the working class, different and opposed to the Ian MacGregor and Reagan America of the rich war mongers." MacGregor is the head of the British government's National Coal Board.

Bringing greetings from struggling U.S. workers, I explained that, "The U.S. rulers are driving to weaken and break the unions, protected by the government, courts, and cops. The capitalist news media does not cover most strikes, hoping



Labor Party leader Tony Benn (left) and U.S. auto worker Andrew Pulley (right) addressed miners solidarity rally in Lambeth, Britain.

thereby to prevent emulation or solidarity activities. They hide the British miners strike and your solidarity efforts as well from the U.S. working class.

"But a victory for the miners strike will burst through this news blackout and biased coverage. It will have an impact on the minds of U.S. workers, giving us greater confidence to press forward to fight for our interests at home and oppose our government's criminal war against Nicaragua and all of Central America. Your victory will aid Nicaragua and all those in the Caribbean struggling against imperialism. It will strengthen the working class in Europe as well."

Tony Benn, a left-wing Labor Party

Member of Parliament, told the rally, "We must begin thinking of a general strike as we enter the critical stage in the strike this winter. I support NUM President [Arthur] Scargill's position calling for more effective action by other unions to halt coal shipments and other attempts to break the strike. If we have to, we should use tactics that can win more public backing — maybe run the tube [train] and buses but not collect fares."

## Miners' wives

Kay Sutcliffe, a leader of the Miners' Wives Support Committee, spoke about the changes in the lives and roles of women

Continued on Page 12

# Phila. ACTWU hears striking miner

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Ben Toomer, delegate to the Yorkshire Area of Britain's striking coal miners union, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), spoke to 60 members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) on December 10. This was a meeting of the Social Service and Legislative Representatives of ACTWU, but there were leaflets posted up in many shops inviting union members to come. Most of those in attendance were Black women.

Toomer introduced himself as a single, 36-year-old striker from Yorkshire. He began working in the mines when he was 15 years old.

The strike started in Yorkshire, where 55,000 miners voted to strike in response to government plans to eliminate 20,000 jobs by closing 20 mines. The coal industry

is nationalized in Britain.

Toomer compared the layoffs of steel workers in the United States to what is happening in Britain's coal industry. "Capital is on the offensive both in the U.S. and in Britain. They are trying to regain their money off the backs of working and poor people," said Toomer. He added that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wants to cut social service benefits that unions won in the past. "Thatcher is trying to recoup 50 years of social benefits and, like your President Reagan, she is trying to break the unions to do this."

Toomer talked about the attempts of the Thatcher government to break the union and the spirits of the strikers. He told how the police, the courts, and the capitalist press have been used against the workers. "The police have arrested 8,000 miners for picketing scab coal. Now their latest tactic is to bring paramilitary riot police into the areas that are the most militant. Our villages are occupied like enemy prison camps."

Toomer told the audience that striking families are living on as little as \$2.12 a week. He said that the strikers are able to survive because the women — the wives and daughters of the miners — have left the kitchens and involved themselves in the struggle.

"The family roles have reversed," Toomer said, "and the men stay home and take care of the children while the women have formed women's support committees,

raised money, and traded blows with the cops on the picket lines. The soup kitchens have provided one hot meal for each member of the striking families and have kept the strike strong," he said. This has prevented the Thatcher government so far from starving out the strike. The organization of miners' wives has kept up morale as things have gotten harder over the months. "Women have been the backbone of the strike," Toomer said.

"We are fighting for our jobs, our villages, our families, and our way of life," said Toomer. He added, "You fought the British Government in 1776 for your democratic right to determine your destiny. The NUM is fighting for the same thing." Toomer's call for solidarity got a warm response.

During the question part of the meeting, one person asked what the NUM thought about the English occupation of Northern Ireland. Toomer replied that the miners union told the British union movement 10 years ago that the government was practicing police terror tactics in Northern Ireland that would eventually be used against workers in Britain.

Toomer was also asked what the Labor Party was doing to help to strike. He said that he was a leader of the Yorkshire Labor Party and that the local Labor Party Councils have provided funds to aid the strike. The party has funded food and uniforms for the children of strikers and has paid the rent for families that are on strike so that no one is evicted.

On the way out of the meeting, workers were remarking on the fact that the Labor Party would pay the rent of workers on strike. "Can you imagine the Democratic Party paying our rent when we go on strike?" someone asked.

Toomer was also able to speak at a meeting of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, the University of Pennsylvania, and to the municipal workers union.

# Women strike Ford in Britain

BY ANDREW PULLEY

LONDON — For two months, 270 women sewing-machine operators have been on strike at Ford's Dagenham and Halewood plants outside London. Their strike has shut down all of Ford's car production in Britain.

They went on strike with other members of the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineers last November. Most of the other workers settled after winning a 7 percent wage increase. The Transport and General Workers Union refused to sign the contract, however, until Ford settles with the women.

The women, who are all sewing-machine operators in the trim plant, are demanding upgrading of their job classification, which would mean more money. They are just as skilled as the cutters in the same plant who are all men and who have a higher job classification with more pay.

I visited their picket line and introduced myself as a U.S. auto worker who was also on strike. I spoke with Jackie Mail, Tina Clark, Debby Jeffries, and Vera Sina, who has worked there for 19 years. I got a sense of how determined these women are to win.

"Are you surprised that 270 women have the power to shut down all of Ford's oper-

ation in Britain?" I asked. Sina answered, "Women always knew their power. The problem is the men."

The women's position is that the union should call out all the remaining workers on their behalf, meaning the few stamping plant and maintenance workers who are still on the job.

The women's action is costing Ford £10 million (£1 = U.S. \$1.16) a day. No cars can be produced without the sewing-machine operators.

Accompanying me at the picket line were two socialist workers from the Dagenham plant. They suggested to the women that they contact the striking coal miners in order to have the auto strike included in the rallies organized for the miners. They also suggested an appeal through leaflets and other means to get male members of the auto union active on their picket line.

The women had filed grievances for equal pay six times during national contract talks. And each time the rest of the union settled without winning the sewing-machine operators demands. This time the women struck, even though the Christmas holiday is not usually a good time to strike. They said they had no choice and they planned to picket every day, including Christmas.



Striking British coal miner, Ben Toomer, speaking to Philadelphia AFL-CIO Central Labor Council meeting.

## British miners strike

British coal miners have been on strike against mine closures since March 1984. The *Militant* features regular coverage of this important class battle.

Subscribe today!



# Company greed killed coal miners in Utah

Continued from front page

Snow, 27; John Waldoch, 22; Lester Walls, Jr., 23; Nanette Wheeler, 33, the one woman killed; and John Wilsey, 31. The men leave more than 40 children, as well as widows, surviving them.

Emery Mining has tried to cover up its responsibility for the disaster, claiming the fire probably started as a result of a mechanical failure on the conveyor-belt system that brings coal out of the mine.

However, at a press conference December 28 at UMW Local 2176 headquarters in Orangeville, eyewitness testimony was presented by two union members who discovered the fire. Their story contradicts the company version.

## What union members saw

Speaking at the press conference were UMW members Alex Tidwell and Clinton Price. They are beltmen, whose job is to maintain the conveyor belt and keep the area clean of coal dust accumulation that could lead to a fire.

According to Tidwell and Price, the fire broke out near an electrical cable in the fresh-air tunnel leading to the longwall section, not on the conveyor belt.

In the Wilberg mine, the power system is equipped with safety circuits that should shut off power if cables are overloaded, damaged, or catch fire. But once the fire started, and the cable exploded, the power stayed on, the two unionists reported. They said the company "may have jumped the cable, a common practice."

Wilberg miners are familiar with this practice, since the company regularly overloads the electrical system to increase production. Often a miner is assigned to repeatedly turn on the machinery every time the safety circuits shut it down because of overload.

The two men said the phone nearest the fire was not working so they were unable to immediately call for help. As the fire spread to the conveyor belt motor, an automatic foam system that should have been activated to put out the fire failed to work. "It just bubbled," they said.

One of the miners finally found a working phone to call in an alarm. They also attempted to put out the fire but the flames quickly spread throughout the area, forcing them to leave.

## Gov't inspectors' role

Just a week before the fire, the federal government's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) had inspected the Wilberg mine. Faulty equipment and other safety violations are supposed to be detected during such inspections.

Earlier last fall, MSHA inspectors had found caved-in coal and rock blocking an escape route. Instead of ordering Emery to clean up the cave-in, MSHA issued the company a variance, which is a permit to keep operating despite a safety violation. The union cannot appeal a variance.

Because the cave-in was never removed, there were only two — instead of the normal three — exits available to miners in the area. The fire broke out on one escape route and quickly burned through to a second exit, blocking both. The third escape-way was blocked by the cave-in. The miners on the longwall were thus trapped.

UMWA members had been discussing the cave-in prior to the fire. One person said the area was a potential "tomb" if anything ever happened requiring a quick escape.

## Needless deaths

At a press conference December 24, the UMW District 22 president, Michael Dalpiaz, called the deaths of the 27 trapped in the mine "needless." UMW International Safety Director Joe Main, who also spoke, said, "these things don't just happen. Usually when fires or explosions occur, safety rules have not been complied with or they have been altered." He mentioned in particular the inadequate number of escape routes at Wilberg.

Such safety violations are only part of the assault on miners' health and safety that has been carried out by the company in recent years. The Wilberg mine has had one of the highest accident rates in the country. Safety jobs have been eliminated through layoffs, and a speedup "bonus" plan has been introduced that further endangers the workers. (See story on this page).



Wilberg miner (above) who was part of rescue efforts at mine. At right, Kathy Riddle and her son waiting at Emery Mining Corp. office. Her husband Kelly was killed in fire.



Emery's lack of concern for miners' health and safety was demonstrated last fall, when it refused to sign the national coal contract ratified by UMW members. The company insisted on ending its payments into the 1950 UMW Health and Retirement Fund. Miners at Emery's Wilberg, Deer Creek, and Des-Bee-Dove mines went on strike for a month, finally forcing the company to accept a contract similar to the national agreement other companies had signed.

## Company cover-up on safety

After the fire broke out at Wilberg December 19, the company tried to give the impression that emergency procedures at the mine were in good working order. It released statements implying that the trapped miners would be able to save themselves if they made use of safety measures provided by the company.

For example, Emery held out the hope that the miners could escape from the fire to a "logical safe retreat area" 1,500 feet from where they were working. Emery spokesman Henrie said that there were "emergency supplies, including oxygen tanks, throughout the mine and each miner can carry a self-rescue unit."

But the "logical safe retreat area" he referred to is simply a small, empty space left from digging tunnels. It was never designed for safety purposes.

The "oxygen tanks" in the mine are not for miners to use in breathing — they are used to run acetylene torches to cut metal.

The oxygen-supplying self-rescue units Henrie referred to are not generally carried by miners; they are too bulky and heavy. Instead these are stored at various points in

the mine, as much as 1,000 feet away from work areas.

When rescue teams discovered the bodies of 25 of the victims, none were in the "logical safe retreat area." A number of union members were found dead at the coal face where they had been working, indicating they never had a chance to try to escape. Another victim was found in the kitchen near the work area. Most of the bosses were found near some diesel trucks used to transport workers.

Many Wilberg miners report they have not participated in a fire drill for years, despite the fact that these are required periodically by law to make sure all workers know how to use the escape routes. Many say they have had no special fire-fighting or evacuation training beyond how to put on a self-rescue unit. It had become common practice at Wilberg for "safety meetings" to be no more than company personnel asking miners if they knew how to evacuate the mine in case of fire. The miners would then be asked to sign a statement that they had received escape training.

## Rescue efforts by miners

In spite of all the obstacles created by the company, miners did everything they could to try to save their trapped coworkers, beginning the day the fire started. UMW members on the shift when the fire broke out, as well as those who arrived soon after for the midnight shift, volunteered to carry out whatever tasks were necessary to aid the specially trained rescue teams that were brought in. Some miners worked on fire-fighting and rescue units while others helped load materials or operate rock dusters to reduce coal dust. Many miners worked long stretches, sleeping at

the mine or returning after short breaks.

UMWA members worked with urgency in the hopes of saving the lives of those trapped underground, risking their own lives in the process. One miner who manned a fire hose described the underground blaze as having a roar "like a blast furnace." He worked on a team building walls, called stoppings, to try to cut off the air that fed the fire. The fire spread around the stoppings almost as soon as they had been built, he said.

Miners' morale remained high, until everyone learned that the rescue teams had located 25 bodies and that no hope remained for the other two.

At the same time, many miners were critical of the slow, disorganized manner in which the company carried out the rescue operation. Some miners suspect Emery may have wanted the fire to keep burning, in order to destroy evidence.

## Community solidarity

People in the coal mining communities of Carbon and Emery rallied to meet the needs of the fire-fighting and rescue teams. Local community organizations were flooded with offers of help. Calls also came from anxious friends and relatives from around the country trying to find out if loved ones were trapped in the fire and if they could do anything to help.

The British National Union of Mineworkers, which has been on strike for 10 months, called from London to express concern for the miners, their friends, and families. The Australian miners union also called.

While solidarity like this was pouring in from workers around the world, Emery

Continued on Page 11

## Wilberg mine is notorious for safety violations

BY JOE GEISER  
AND CECILIA MORIARTY

PRICE, Utah — At a United Mine Workers of America press conference in Orangeville December 28, it was reported that in the last two years the Wilberg mine had received 264 separate citations for violations on safety. Many of these are directly related to preventing fires.

The Emery Mining Corp., which manages the Wilberg mine, received 87 citations for violating fire regulations and 29 for violating rock-dust regulations. (Rock dust is crushed limestone that must be spread throughout the mine to reduce the danger of coal dust igniting.)

In 1983 the company got 12 citations for coal-dust accumulation, three of which were termed "serious and substantial," meaning they posed an immediate danger of injury or death. Emery was also cited for 24 violations on safety equipment.

In 1984 the company received 13 cita-

tions for coal-dust accumulation and 30 for faulty safety equipment. From Sept. 30 to Dec. 20, 1984, the company had been cited for "serious and substantial" violations four times.

The accident rate at Wilberg was 37.21 per 200,000 miner-hours of work in 1982. The national average that year was 12.21. In 1983, the Wilberg accident rate was 17.01, while the national average was 10.44. In 1984, the Wilberg rate was 11.48, and the national rate was 10.06.

The government's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has said that the accident rate at Wilberg improved in the last two years, going by the officially reported rate. But since 1982 the mine has introduced a bonus plan that covers up what the real accident rate is.

The way the bonus plan works is this: based on how much coal is produced in the mine as a whole, every miner and boss gets

a bonus. However, the size of the bonus is reduced for every reported loss of work time due to injury. Thus the pressure is on to not report injuries. The true accident rate in the Wilberg mine in the last two years is unknown.

What is known is that through layoffs and job combinations, important tasks related to safety have taken a back seat to production and profit.

For example, one of the jobs the company has eliminated is the "hawkshack" job. This was a fulltime job for one miner on each shift, who was responsible for monitoring a fire-detection board and a minewide phone communications system. The phone dispatch has been moved to the warehouse and become an added job for the warehouseman, who is also responsible for other tasks. The fire monitoring system has been moved to the bathroom and lamp-house, where miners with other jobs are also expected to watch for fires.



# Speedup drive in coal mines: a national problem

BY JIM WHITE

"There's no question it's one of the safest and most efficient mines in the nation."

That is how Robert Henrie, spokesman for the Emery Mining Corp., described the Wilberg mine on Dec. 21, 1984, two days after a fire broke out there, killing 27 people. It was the worst coal mine disaster in the United States since 1970.

Although there is no question that Wilberg had become one of the most productive mines in the United States, the drive to accomplish that was accompanied by a murderous safety record.

The bare figures tell part of the story. In 1983 Wilberg was rated the most productive underground mine in the country, mining more tons of coal per miner-hour worked than any other mine. However, in 1982 it had an accident rate three times the national average. In 1983, despite a large drop in the officially reported rate, it was still 163 percent of the national average. And in 1984, before the fire, Wilberg's rate was running 15 percent ahead of the national rate.

## Complicity of government

Behind the story of this one mine is the speedup drive of the coal operators nationwide, carried out with the help of the U.S. government agency that is supposed to oversee mine safety.

A July 9, 1984, *Business Week* article reported a 46 percent increase in the productivity of union miners since 1978. This is the same year budget cuts began to limit enforcement of mine safety laws, and the fatality rates reversed their eight-year decline.

The decline had begun after the passage of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, the result of an historic struggle by rank-and-file members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). The law empowered government agencies to enforce company compliance with safety regulations. As a result, mine fatality rates decreased by over a third from 1970 to 1978. Between 1978 and 1981, after the budget cuts, the number of mine deaths increased by almost 50 percent.

In 1984 the 27 deaths at Wilberg brought the year's total to at least 121, 181 percent of the 1983 total of 67. The high fatality rate from the beginning of the year prompted Richard Trumka, president of the UMWA, to issue a Health and Safety Alert to all local union health and safety committees in the United States on March 23, 1984. In it he pointed to the government's role:

"Fatalities continue to climb. One reason is clear — enforcement of the mine

laws has laxed. In the last four years, penalties have been cut in half and the new \$20 'penalty' has become the rule.

"Reagan's budget cuts have been aimed at reducing the number of coal mine inspectors, and those that have stayed on the job have been encouraged not to write violations."

The link between company speedup drives and the government's nonenforcement was sharply stated by the UMWA officers in their report to the union's 1983 Constitutional Convention.

They say, "In the four years since the last International Convention, more than 475 miners have been killed on the job."

"Many coal operators have taken advantage of the hard times in the industry to try and run with short crews and to push miners to take shortcuts."

"The companies have been aided in their drive to emphasize production over safety by the Reagan administration, which is simply failing to enforce federal safety laws."

## A case study

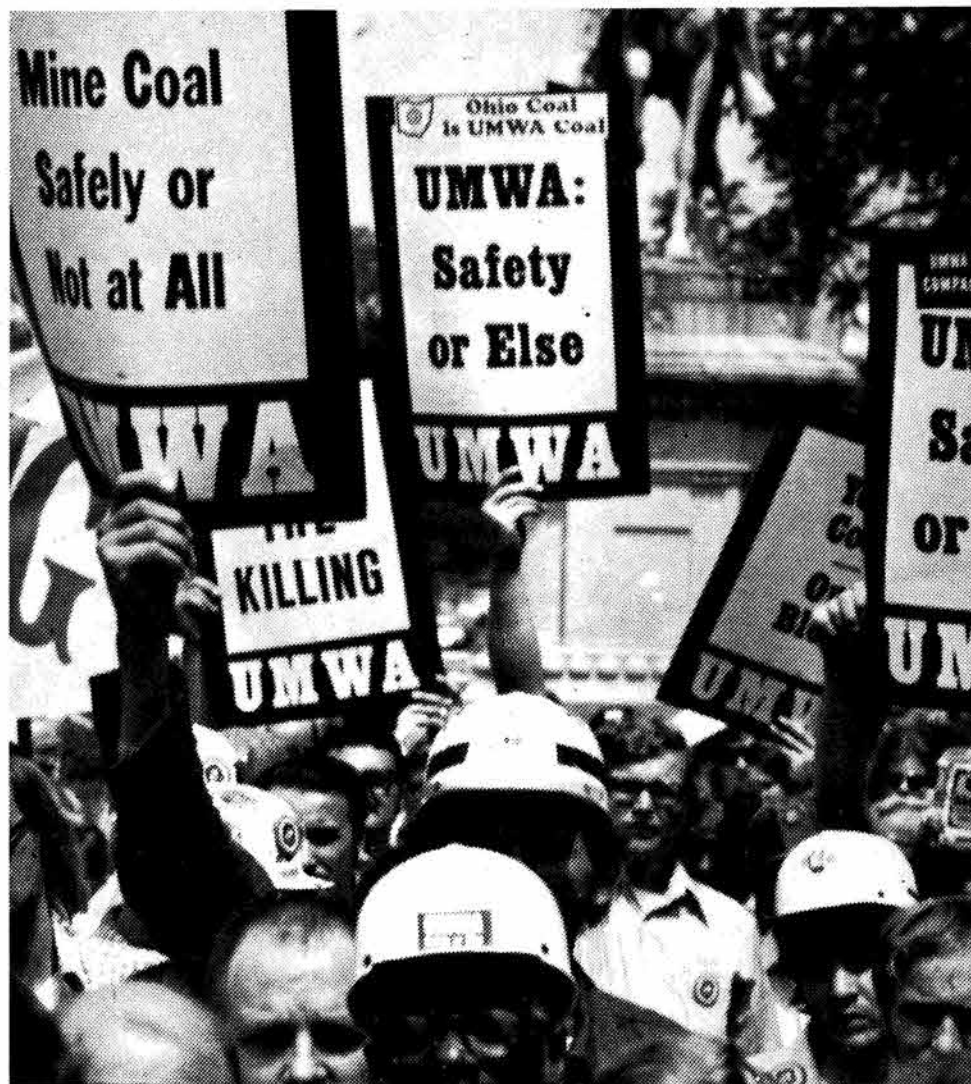
Wilberg is a case study of how this works.

In late 1981 Emery instituted what it called a "bonus and safety plan." At the time its two largest mines, Deer Creek and Wilberg, had very high accident rates.

The company was especially dissatisfied with the level of production at Wilberg. The "bonus" plan set production levels for each mine. If the mine produced over that level, a cash bonus was paid to every miner, foreman, supervisor, and office worker at the mine. The amount of the bonus was reduced according to the number of injuries that resulted in lost work time over the month. Individual miners also had their bonus reduced according to their attendance during the month.

The next step in the company profit drive was a deep layoff at the Wilberg mine in April 1982. This was the first of a wave of layoffs by Emery that continued later in 1982 and into 1983. Over the period of a year, the hourly work force was cut from nearly 1,700 to less than 1,000. This was part of a larger wave of layoffs in the Utah coal industry that cut coal mine employment in the state in half over the same period.

During this time, productivity at Emery, which is the state's largest coal producer and employer, rose. Miners at Wilberg began to get bonuses regularly by the end of 1983. Production at Wilberg, which peaked at about 7,000 tons per day in March 1982 before falling after the layoff,



Militant/Steve Watson

Mine fatalities continue to rise as companies sacrifice safety for profits and government inspectors look the other way.

was holding steady at nearly 10,000 tons a day by the spring of 1984. However in March 1982, about 500 miners were working, and in 1984 the figure was about 275.

## Emery's other mines

Emery's safety record was bad at its other two mines. At Deer Creek, which has had an accident rate that is worse than the national average, a foreman was killed by falling coal in 1983 and an independent construction contractor was killed by a roof fall this year.

At Des-Bee-Dove, the company's other mine, a piece of diesel equipment caught fire underground on Dec. 29, 1983. Five miners narrowly escaped after trying to put the fire out. The mine has been burning

ever since.

The Utah Power & Light Co. which owns and burns the coal that Emery mines, has also had recent fatalities. In early December four workers at the power company's Oneida hydroelectric plant in Preston, Idaho, were killed when a pipe carrying water under high pressure broke. They were washed into the Bear River and drowned.

In short, the disaster at the Wilberg mine was no "accident." With the company's attitude toward safety and its drive for profit, the only thing accidental is that there had never been a fatality at the mine before.

Jim White used to work at the Wilberg mine and was a member of UMWA Local 2176.

# Company greed killed miners

## Continued from Page 10

Mining showed nothing but callous disregard for the victims and their families. The company's press conferences continually doled out deceptive, self-serving statements designed to make the company look good and raise false expectations. Before the mine had been sealed, the company wouldn't even tell widows whether it would pay for their husbands' funerals. Emery made a big show of paying for plane tickets for relatives flying into Utah, but refused to do anything to aid the families once they were here.

## Union members organize relief efforts

It was the UMWA and its supporters that took over the relief efforts for the families. UMWA Local 2176 set up an information center in Orangeville with the help of the UMWA district and volunteers. The Lady Coal Miners of Utah joined the efforts. This is a women miners' support team and the local chapter of the national Coal Employment Project, which helps women get and keep mining jobs.

Once the 25 bodies had been found, the UMWA and Lady Coal Miners worked with the union families to help arrange the details of getting the miners' paychecks, removing their personal belongings from the mine, making appointments for social security benefits, and finally, contacting the families to inform them that the mine had been sealed. The Lady Coal Miners helped staff the UMWA district office, taking phone calls from widows and other relatives and getting out needed information.

Unionists arranged transportation from the airports in Grand Junction and Salt Lake City for relatives flying in. A local car dealer loaned new cars to the union to make the trips. Volunteers drove the families while they were in town and then

back to the airport.

Volunteers also organized the preparation and delivery of food to the rescue and fire-fighting teams at the mine. The food was cooked by community residents or donated by local restaurants, fast food outlets, and convenience stores.

Several Wilberg miners who are women worked long hours at the mine making cof-

**The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) has set up a fund for the families of the Wilberg mine disaster victims. Donations may be sent to UMWA Carbon-Emery Disaster Relief Fund, c/o UMWA District 22, P.O. Box 783, Price, Utah 84501.**

fee and preparing lunches for the rescue teams underground. The company would not allow the women miners to participate in the underground teams.

## 'Natural disaster'?

On December 26, a memorial service for the 27 people killed in the fire was held in Castle Dale, Utah, sponsored by the Mormon church. It was attended by almost 2,000 people, including miners and bosses. Miners were urged by those on the platform to put the Wilberg disaster behind them. One of the featured speakers was Gordon Hinkley, a high official of the Mormon church who also sits on the board of Emery's parent company, Utah Power & Light. Hinkley called the mine fire an accident, comparing it to hurricanes, volcano eruptions, and earthquakes.

After the service was over, one miner said, "This was no accident. This was man-made."

## 'An unacceptable race toward death'

"An unacceptable race toward death." This was how United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Pres. Richard Trumka described company speedup practices like those that led to the Wilberg mine disaster.

Speaking to the media Dec. 21, 1984, in

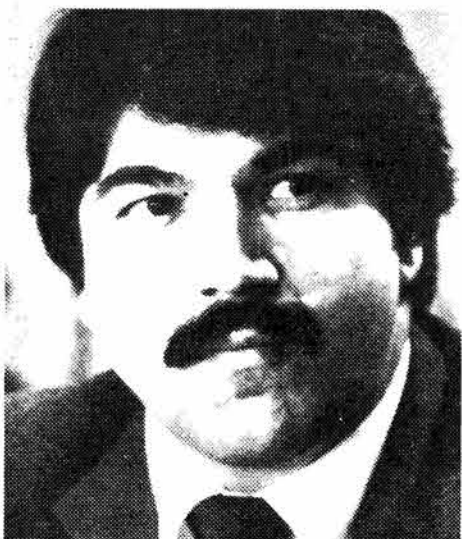
Washington, D.C., Trumka said the nine deaths reported by that time in the mine were "a senseless tragedy. The relationship of coal mine safety and production is clear."

He pointed out that only two entryways were available to the miners as escape routes before the fire started. A third escape route had been blocked by a cave-in. "We don't believe three entries are safe, let alone two," he told reporters.

The UMWA president pledged that "The union's investigation of this tragedy will continue until the complete story of how it occurred is known."

On January 5, Trumka and UMWA Vice-Pres. Cecil Roberts will both attend a union-sponsored public meeting at the Emery High School in Castle Dale, Utah. The gathering's purpose is to raise funds for the families of the victims killed in the mine.

The UMWA is also currently gathering testimony about the disaster in preparation for Mine Safety and Health Administration hearings that will take place in southeastern Utah around January 14. According to the union, these hearings will probably be followed by Congressional hearings.



United Mine Workers of America Pres. Richard Trumka.



# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

**A matter of priorities** — The FBI may not be paying much attention to the bombings of abortion clinics because the agency doesn't see such activity as "terrorist," but the federal gumshoes are not asleep at the switch. Director William Webster notes with satisfaction that they have 500 probes under way of "labor racketeering."



Harry Ring

Director William Webster notes with satisfaction that they have 500 probes under way of "labor racketeering."

**How idealistic can you get?** — Despite his millions, Joseph Kennedy II is so concerned about the poor that he started a \$400 million company dedicated to selling low-priced home heating fuel. Since it's a worthy cause, most of the staff works for \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. Kennedy, who obviously has bigger personal expenses, draws \$60,000.

**Don't try to skip the middle man** — The pope lashed out at the growing notion that people can communicate directly with God and "obtain forgiveness directly from God." He took a dim view of priests administering "general absolutions" to entire congregations and called for a greater use of individual confessions.

**Can't have that, can we** — Electrician Larry Nudelman was fired at the Perry nuke plant going up near Cleveland. He had tapped into the site's PA system, playing the theme song from "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," the popular TV show for preschoolers, every morning. The company got on the case after he plugged in during an emergency drill. The project manager declared, "It's got to be disruptive. It took up the time of the workers."

**Theology dep't** — A study of "celestial demographics" by Tim Heaton, a Mormon sociologist, casts doubt on the idea there's polygamy in Heaven. Polygamy is permitted in the Celestial Kingdom, the choicest of Mor-

monism's three kingdoms of Heaven. But with complex calculations, and the suggestion that men get a better break in being assigned there, Heaton concludes there's a good many more men than women resident there. And since polygamy, naturally, is a one-way street, that's that.

**Nancy Reagan?** — The Francis Scott Key Book Shop caters to Washington's social and political bigwigs. One client, described as a "grande dame," has the shop deliver a weekly supply from its lending library. But the books must contain "nothing about sex, war, or poor people."

**Post-Xmas tip** — Someone you forgot to include on your gift list? Tiffany's has a neat pocket watch

which will strike the hour, quarter hour, or minute, as desired. Also the day and date, plus the phases of the moon. 18-karat gold case. \$85,000.

**Probably lowers the cholesterol** — New Jersey officials suspended distribution of 2.9 million pounds of federal surplus butter to needy families after complaints that the stuff was rancid. They said it's only been in storage a year.

**Takes the nip out of the air** — Bijan's New York shop reports a businessman bought six \$98,000 chinchilla bedspreeds to use as throws on his private jet. (Incidentally, the shop has a rather nice five-piece luggage set in genuine crocodile. \$75,000.)

## U.S. worker sees determination of British miners

Continued from Page 9

brought about by the strike. She said after the strike it will be impossible for many to simply return to being housewives.

"Before the strike we never thought of the struggle of the Irish, Blacks, or the people of Nicaragua. But as a result of their support, they can be sure that after the strike, we'll never forget them," she said.

Audrey Wise, Labor Party National Executive Committee member, spoke about the international influence of the miners strike. Having recently returned from Nicaragua, she reported "how surprised gold miners in Nicaragua were at the news of police brutality committed on horseback

against pickets at the coal pits.

"The people of Nicaragua support the British miners because they remember what life under Somoza was like," she said. She reported that a letter from Kate Sutcliffe replying to a solidarity letter from Nicaraguan gold miners was read to a meeting she attended while in Nicaragua.

Other speakers at this event included South Wales NUM vice-president Terry Thomas; Roy Butlin, leader of Coalville National Union of Railwaymen; and John O'Brien, convenor, Lambeth Council of Unions. The program was chaired by Pat Kane, chairman of the Lambeth Miners Support Committee.

The next morning, I was able to meet with leaders of the Miners' Wives Support Committee and Armthorpe-area Community Miners Support Committee in Yorkshire, one of the strongholds of the miners strike. These two committees operate from a community center and, along with the Miners Welfare Club, raise money and serve one hot meal daily. Miners' wives,

miners, and friends are constantly busy either picketing or doing all the other tasks necessary to support the strike.

My visit to Britain, talking with the miners and their supporters, gave me a glimpse of the kind of battles — and solidarity actions — U.S. workers will be forced into in the future.

## Anti-apartheid protests continue

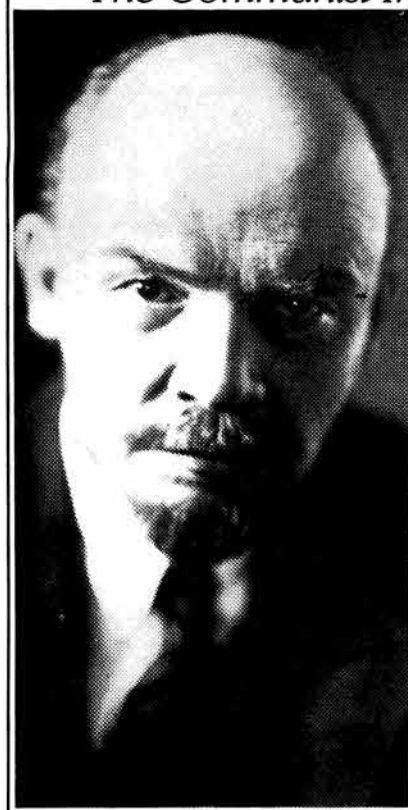
Continued from front page

South African regime, is a symbol of the Black freedom struggle. Twice this year the regime has used Black officials in the phony "independent homeland" of Transkei to offer Mandela a highly restrictive house arrest there. Mandela sharply rejected the latest "offer" last week in a letter banned from publication in South Africa.

Given the protests and pressures that are

building up, there is likely to be some congressional "debate" on South Africa this session. Some Democratic and Republican politicians say they will introduce bills that would institute economic sanctions against South Africa. Recently 35 Republican representatives issued a statement condemning apartheid for, among other things, hindering the appeal of "democratic capitalism."

### The Communist International in Lenin's Time



## LENIN'S STRUGGLE FOR A REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONAL

Documents 1907-16.  
The Preparatory Years

This is the first volume in a new series on the early years of the Communist International. This book documents how Lenin and the Bolsheviks of Russia fought for a revolutionary International. It records the debate within the Second International over imperialist war, colonialism, election policy, the national question and party building.

604 pages, \$10.95.

Also available is a *Study Guide to Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*, 23 pages, \$1.50.

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

## —CALENDAR—

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Eyewitness Report: Washington's War Against Nicaragua.** Speakers: Carla Hoag, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-406 and Steve Schmuger, member Socialist Workers Party. Both recently returned from Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (cor. Raymond). Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Struggle Against Apartheid Accelerates.** Speakers: Henry Elonge, American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association; Jon Flanders, member United Steelworkers of America Local 8247 and Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Jan. 11, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more

information call (518) 434-3247.

#### Brooklyn

**Commemoration of 73rd Anniversary of Founding of the African National Congress of South Africa.** Speakers: Victor Gbeho, chairman of UN Special Committee on Apartheid; Dr. Michio Kaku; Brooklyn Assemblyman Roger Green. Tue., Jan. 8, 6 p.m. Klitgord Auditorium, N.Y. Technical College, 300 Jay St. Aup: Unity in Action Network, Patrice Lumumba Coalition, Caribbean People's Alliance, Southern Africa Committee, Black Student Union of N.Y. Technical College. For more information call (718) 490-3487.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Murder for Profit: From India to Utah, Corporations Are Killing People.** A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 12, 8 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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

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

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

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. **Seaside:** SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-1018.

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

4065.

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

**INDIANA:** Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

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

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

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

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

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit: SWP, YSA, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

**MINNESOTA:** Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA:** 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.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, P.O. Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409

Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

**UTAH:** Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. **Baltimore-Washington District:** 2913 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**WASHINGTON:** Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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



# Socialist view of L.A. 'peace' initiative

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — "They called it the 'Jobs With Peace' initiative, but it did nothing to combat either the war danger or unemployment. Just the opposite. It was used to miseducate about what is needed to answer the real U.S. war threat in Central America and to divert activists into capitalist electoral politics."

Silvia Zapata, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 25th C.D. last November, was giving a post-election assessment of Proposition X in a recent interview with the *Militant*.

Passed by a 487,590 to 317,559 vote, the Los Angeles initiative resembles others that have appeared on ballots around the country.

Endorsers of the measure included the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, the California Federation of Teachers, and the Mexican American Political Association.

"Since similar measures will probably continue to pop up, I think *Militant* readers will be interested in the main lessons we drew here," Zapata said.

The actual wording printed on the ballot calls on Congress and the president to "increase funds" for "jobs and programs in education, housing, and other areas by reducing tax dollars spent for nuclear weapons" and "wasteful military programs." It further calls upon the city to publish an annual study showing "the impact on the City if military taxes above the 1980 amount were applied to such local programs."

"Let's just begin by taking the wording at face value," Zapata said. "Notice it calls for 'reducing' — not eliminating — spending for military weapons. Well, by how much? The answer is given by what follows — to 1980 levels. In effect, it sanctions the massive military build-up, already begun under the Carter administration."

(It should be noted that after the *Los Angeles Times* ran an editorial against Proposition X on grounds that cuts to 1980 levels would be too much, the *People's World*, a California weekly reflecting the views of the Communist Party, responded by quoting a Proposition X organizer who

points out that the measure doesn't "specify any particular amount of reduction.")

Zapata continued, "The proposition calls for getting rid of 'wasteful' military programs. Reagan could agree with that. That only leaves money for 'nonwasteful' programs — programs effective at advancing the interests of U.S. imperialism."

To erase any doubt that this is the intent, a statement placed by Proposition X supporters in an official voter information pamphlet poses the question: "What would happen to our defense capabilities?" The answer: "They would improve. A responsible Pentagon would reduce expenditures for wasteful or outdated programs, and eliminate waste. Indeed, a fully employed nation is a strong nation."

The measure makes no mention at all of government war moves in Central America and the Caribbean.

"Probably the worst thing about this is that it drew some people who were genuinely concerned about doing something against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador away from building independent actions and educating others about the

truth about those countries. Instead they wound up ringing doorbells to miseducate others. They were in fact backing a big war budget and pushing a line favored by the Democrats.

"In reality, Proposition X was just part of a broader electoralist strategy to get out the vote for Mondale and other Democratic Party candidates," Zapata said. "That was made clear by a feature article on Proposition X in the November 1 *Los Angeles Times*."

"According to the *Times*, Proposition X organizers had spent months working 'low income and minority precincts,' registering nearly 50,000 voters in the process. Finding supporters favoring 'Jobs With Peace' was seen as a device to target those likely to vote for Mondale over Reagan, and for other candidates supported by organizers. The whole operation culminated with a big get-out-the-vote drive on election eve."

"One indication of how clearly the measure falls within the framework of ruling-class politics today is that no organized right-wing opposition to the measure appeared," Zapata said. "In fact, nobody even bothered to submit arguments against it in the official voter handbook."



Militant/Lou Howort  
**Silvia Zapata, recent Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in L.A.'s 25th C.D., explained why "jobs with peace" initiatives such as the one that appeared on the ballot there last fall do not advance fight against U.S. wars.**

## FSLN leader assesses U.S.-backed war

Continued from Page 3

This new method of contra operation, Ortega said, puts a premium on "the massive incorporation of the people into this war," since only with the help and participation of the people from the areas where contra groups are active will it be possible to wipe them out.

### Escalation of direct U.S. attacks

Throughout 1984 there has also been a sharp escalation of direct U.S. military attacks and provocations against Nicaragua. There were 480 U.S. Air Force spy flights over Nicaraguan territory, more than double the 200 detected in 1983. U.S. warships have constantly patrolled Nicaragua's two coasts, and the U.S. government has built up a naval base and several air force bases in Honduras.

In addition, U.S. forces have directly attacked Nicaragua, as with the CIA's mining of Nicaragua's harbors and the September 1 air raid on the town of Santa Clara where two U.S. citizens died when their helicopter was shot down.

At the same time, U.S. armed forces have carried out an uninterrupted string of land, naval, air, and combined maneuvers in Honduras, along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Nicaragua, and in Panama. Further exercises have been announced for 1985.

### Reduction in contra forces

In response to a question, Ortega said that results over the year have led to a reduction somewhat in the contra's strength, down to about 10,000 today compared to 12,000-13,000 a year ago.

A detailed estimate by army intelligence says the FDN has a total of 5,500 troops that operate in the mountainous areas in the north-central part of the country, especially along the border with Honduras. In the northeastern corner of Nicaragua there are 1,100 troops from MISURA, a group based among Miskitu Indians that is closely allied with the FDN. Its central leader is Steadman Fagoth.

Finally, in the southeast of the country there are up to 2,000 ARDE forces. However, ARDE's military units are known to be badly splintered into several hostile factions: the Sandino Revolutionary Front, led by Edén Pastora, Nicaragua's Benedict Ar-

nold; the wing of ARDE allied with the FDN, led by Edgar Chamorro; and MISURASATA, a Miskitu-based group, whose central leader, Brooklyn Rivera, is currently holding cease-fire negotiations with the Nicaraguan government.

Ortega said that the counterrevolutionaries — and especially the FDN — have been able to avoid further numerical erosion of their forces through kidnapping peasants and hiring non-Nicaraguan mer-

cenaries from elsewhere in Central and South America and the Caribbean. But, he remarked, these are "measures that are politically very weak and tend to backfire."

Summing up the entire year, the Nicaraguan defense minister said, "We are advancing."

"We cannot be excessively optimistic and say that in 1985 we are going to wipe them out to the last man, but we can deliver strategic blows to them in the next year."

## Detroit march against South Africa

BY MAURICE GEARY

DETROIT — Some 500 demonstrators here protested against South African apartheid and U.S. complicity with it at a December 20 march and rally. Protesters demanded the U.S. government and corporations divest from South Africa. They also demanded the release of Nelson Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, and other political prisoners.

The noon rally, sponsored by the Detroit chapter of TransAfrica, heard speakers from civil rights groups, trade unions, and community and religious organizations.

Among those who spoke was Rosa Parks, the Black woman whose protest sparked the 1956 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott to desegregate that city's transit system. Parks compared apartheid to the Jim Crow system of segregation that used to exist in the South.

The Rev. Charles Adams, head of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, called on U.S. companies to divest from South Africa, saying that it is "the only place on Earth where those who are born in a country are declared aliens and foreigners in

their own country. . . ."

Noel Saleh, from the Arab-American Anti-Defamation Committee, said that Arab-Americans are "keenly aware of the concept of apartheid . . . because a substantial Arab population lives under these conditions in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Rep. John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, said, "I am sorry to say to you that the United States government is secretly and complicitly in collusion with the South African government." Conyers said the U.S. government is providing the apartheid regime with military technology, "repressive police equipment," computers, and "turbojet planes that are flying all over there to herd Black Africans into the phony homelands."

Detroit mayor Coleman Young also addressed the rally as did United Auto Workers president Owen Bieber. The UAW head said the union "many years ago took steps to see to it that the pension fund that we helped to negotiate would not be invested in South Africa. And we're proud of that accomplishment."

## N.Y. meeting hears eyewitness report on Grenada elections

BY TOM LEONARD

NEW YORK — Noted Grenadian historian Joachim Mark gave an eyewitness report on the recent elections in Grenada to a public meeting sponsored by the Committee for a Free Grenada on December 21.

Mark went to Grenada to help monitor the elections on behalf of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), which ran candidates in the election and received 4.9 percent of the vote. The MBPM was founded by former leaders of Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government that was overthrown in October 1983. It takes its name from Grenada's former Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop.

Mark said that the MBPM ran in the elections for three reasons. One was to help put the MBPM organizationally on its feet. Second was the opportunity the election offered the MBPM to explain the political developments in Grenada over the past year. Third was to examine the role played by the U.S. government before, during, and after the Grenadian revolution.

The December 3 election was held while the country is still occupied by hundreds of U.S. and Caribbean troops and police. An additional 250 Caribbean police were brought to Grenada and stationed in front of polling places on election day.

During his report, Mark stressed the difficulty faced by many MBPM supporters in registering to vote in the elections. He pointed out that many of these supporters were among the thousands of people arrested following the October 1983 invasion by U.S. troops. One condition for their release from prison was that they not participate in politics or engage in "antigovernment" activity. As a result, Mark explained, many potential MBPM supporters missed the voter-registration deadline out of fear they would be politically victimized.

## Maurice Bishop Speaks



A collection of interviews with and speeches by the prime minister of Grenada during the years of the Grenada revolution, 1979-83. Includes an introduction explaining events that led to the overthrow of the revolution, the assassination of Bishop, and the invasion by U.S. troops.

Appendix contains statements of Cuban government and Fidel Castro on the killing of Bishop, the U.S. invasion, and Cuba's role in Grenada.

352 pages. Price: \$6.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

### Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the big-business press for the truth about Cuba and Nicaragua. It isn't there. It is, however, in the *Militant*. See the ad on page 2 for subscription details.



## Bosses hail racist vigilante

According to the big-business media in New York City, Bernhard Goetz is a hero.

Why? Because he shot four Black teenagers on the city's subway on December 22.

"I am the Subway Vigilante" read the banner headline on the January 1 *New York Post* the day after Goetz surrendered to cops in New Hampshire. He had been hiding there since the shootings. "Quiet Loner Fed Up With Local Crime" read one of the subheads. The January 1 *New York Daily News* ran a story on Goetz called "A Fantasy Come True: Death Wish Gunman Captured City's Imagination."

The media are filled with reports that the four Black youths approached Goetz and demanded \$5. Goetz reportedly told the youths that "I have \$5 for each of you." He then stood up, pulled out a .38-caliber revolver, and shot the young Blacks. Goetz shot two of the youths in the back as they fled. Three of the youths are recovering, but a fourth will be crippled for life from a bullet that tore through his spine.

Goetz isn't a hero, but a racist vigilante who should be locked up for attempted murder. This businessman set himself up as a one-man entrapment squad. Goetz had a reputation among his neighbors of being a virulent racist. He carried a gun, waiting for an opportunity to blow some Black away. He told several friends that "Sooner or later, I'm going to get them."

The employers and their media hail Goetz because his action fits in with their anti-working class "law and order" campaign. The racist edge of this "anticrime" drive is easily seen. We need more cops to keep "them" in line; further curtailment of civil liberties to put more of "them" in jail; and more restrictive bail requirements and longer sentences to keep "them" there.

## Court says marital rape is crime

The New York State Court of Appeals ruled on December 20 that a man who rapes his wife is subject to prosecution under the state's penal code. This decision registers the broad change in consciousness about women that has been won through the work of women's liberation fighters.

In a unanimous decision, the court struck down the provision in the law that had exempted men from prosecution for raping their wives. The court based its decision on the equal protection guarantee in the constitution. In the decision, Judge Sol Wachtler wrote, "A married woman has the same right to control her body as an unmarried one." Marriage, the decision continued, does not constitute a woman's "irrevocable implied consent" to sex. With this decision, New York becomes the 17th state to open the way for prosecutions in the case of marital rape.

The marital exemption for rape dates back to 17th century English law, which viewed married women as the property of their husbands. Under that law, a man never raped his wife but only exercised his legal right to use his property as he pleased. According to this, domestic violence, including rape, was a private matter between husband and wife and outside the realm of society's concern.

band and wife and outside the realm of society's concern.

Like other forms of domestic violence, marital rape is widespread in this society, where women are the oppressed sex. Studies conducted in Boston and San Francisco indicate that 10 to 14 percent of married women have been raped by their husbands. These rapes often formed part of a pattern of abuse.

Nor can women who have been raped always free themselves from such violence by leaving their husbands. These studies show that retribution in the form of beatings by husbands is common when rape victims attempt to flee.

According to these same studies, the period of separation prior to divorce is one of the most dangerous times for a woman who has been raped. Women's economic dependence on their husbands forces most victims of marital rape to continue to live with their rapists.

Marital rape is deeply rooted in class-divided society, where women are economically dependent on men and are subjected to discrimination and superexploitation by the ruling class. The court ruling won't prevent marital rape. But this decision does give women a legal weapon with which to defend themselves.

## Inciting antiabortion terrorism

Arrogantly brushing aside a poll confirming that a majority of Catholics reject the hierarchy's reactionary opposition to abortion rights, New York Archbishop John O'Connor reiterated that the church would not budge on the issue.

A *New York Daily News* survey found that 78 percent of the Catholics polled consider abortion morally acceptable for a rape victim. O'Connor responded, nothing doing, "We're still talking about a human life."

He was equally hard-nosed in rejecting the view of 84 percent of married Catholic women that use of the pill for birth control is also morally acceptable.

The hierarchy's stand, O'Connor declared, is "unalterable."

Despite the mumbo jumbo about abortion being "murder," the church position represents contempt for human life and is totally abusive of the legal and moral right of women to control their own bodies.

The hierarchy's increasingly strident insistence on its lying claim that abortion is "murder" incites stepped-up activity by antiabortion terrorists.

Shortly after midnight, January 1, a bomb explosion caused extensive damage at the Hillcrest Women's Surgical Center, a Washington, D.C., abortion clinic near Capitol Hill.

An anonymous caller to a local paper said the bombing was the work of the "Army of God, East Coast Division."

The Army of God has taken credit for other bombings.

The toll has become substantial.

According to Barbara Redford of the National Abortion Federation, there were 29 bombing and arson attacks on clinics in 1984. That's up from four in 1983.

And, the employers imply, if all else fails, every "decent" person should get a gun and shoot the first Black or Latino that you feel threatened by.

This drive against democratic rights isn't directed only at Blacks and Latinos, but all working people. Cops are used to break strikes as well as carry out racist terror. Trade unionists, antiwar activists, fighters for women's equality, and civil rights activists are targets of every move against democratic rights.

The capitalist media barrage lauding the "subway vigilante" is aimed at convincing working people that the problem in this society is *other workers* — especially Black and Latino youth.

But workers aren't criminals — we are the *victims* of capitalist crime. Capitalist greed kills hundreds of coal miners every year, like the Utah miners who died last month. Thousands were killed in Bhopal, India, when toxic gas from an unsafe U.S.-owned chemical plant swept through that city. Thousands of Nicaraguan workers and peasants have been killed in the U.S. imperialists' war of terror against the Nicaraguan revolution.

In New York City, Democratic mayor Edward Koch's administration has waged a relentless campaign against the Black and Latino communities and other working people. Racist police brutality is rampant.

It's the racist, anti-working class policies of Koch and other capitalist politicians that inspire right-wing vigilantes such as Goetz. Working people should reject reactionary "law and order" campaigns. We should mobilize our potential power against the real criminals: the bosses and their government. In such a fight we will weld together the bonds of human solidarity that can build a new society free of crime and violence by eliminating their root — class exploitation.

## Why Vietnamese troops went into Kampuchea

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

The U.S. government and capitalist media are raising a hue and cry about the current offensive by Vietnamese troops against proimperialist guerrillas in Kampuchea. The imperialist rulers claim Vietnam is waging a brutal war against defenseless Kampuchean civilians. The imperialists also charge Vietnamese troops are an occupation army.

When and how did the Vietnamese troops arrive in Kampuchea? What are they doing there?

In the Jan. 19, 1979, issue of the *Militant*, staff writer Fred Feldman answered these questions in an article entitled, "Behind fall of Pol Pot regime."

"In a rapid military drive," wrote Feldman, "100,000 Vietnamese troops together with 20,000 Cambodian insurgents captured virtually all of eastern Cambodia [as Kampuchea was formerly called], taking the capital city

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

of Phnompenh on January 7. Pressing westward from Phnompenh, the Vietnamese-Cambodian force moved rapidly toward the Thai-Cambodian border.

"The invasion brought down the regime of Pol Pot."

Feldman explained how the Vietnamese military move was in defense of the Vietnamese revolution. As part of the *Militant's* ongoing coverage of the Indochinese revolution, Feldman returned to this theme in an article he wrote in the Jan. 18, 1980, issue of the paper.

In that article Feldman explained that the U.S. rulers had suffered a severe defeat when the U.S.-dominated regimes in Indochina fell in 1975. Washington, however, didn't withdraw from Indochina, nor give up its goal of containing and, ultimately, reversing the revolutions.

Feldman wrote, "The eagerness of the Peking regime to offer imperialism its services against revolution in Indochina in exchange for diplomatic and economic deals, and the counterrevolutionary course followed by the Pol Pot wing of the Khmer Rouge [which came to power with the downfall of the U.S.-backed Lon Nol dictatorship in April 1975], provided the opening Washington was looking for."

"The brutal measures taken by the Pol Pot regime — the deportation of the urban and much of the rural population, the establishment of forced agricultural labor camps as the basic economic unit, and the savage reduction of living standards and basic public services to support expanded exports — were accompanied from the start by attacks across the Vietnamese border."

This fighting escalated into a full-scale border war in mid-1977. The Hanoi government's initial response was to try to negotiate with the Pol Pot regime, but they were forced to take military action in December 1977.

In March and April 1978, Vietnamese leaders mobilized tens of thousands of supporters to carry out the expropriation of Saigon capitalists in the south of Vietnam. This extension of the socialist revolution prompted the U.S. rulers and other imperialists to increase their support to Pol Pot's regime and its attacks on Vietnam.

Feldman explained that "Faced with a menacing anti-Vietnamese alliance that could only grow more open and aggressive with time, the Vietnamese government shifted at the end of 1978 from relying mainly on building up an anti-Pol Pot force in Kampuchea to decisive military action."

"The imperialists responded with a blast of propaganda against Hanoi. And Deng Xiaoping's government in Peking was given encouragement for war moves against Vietnam."

Tens of thousands of Chinese troops invaded Vietnam in February 1979. But by March a massive mobilization of the Vietnamese people had beaten back the invaders.

Vietnamese troops have remained in Kampuchea in order to help defend the Kampuchean people from counterrevolutionary attacks by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge and rightist guerrillas. This protection has allowed the Kampuchean people time to reconstruct their country, devastated by decades of imperialist war and Pol Pot's terror.

"Working people around the world," explained Feldman, "must demand an end to military moves against Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos — whether from Washington, Peking, or Bangkok."

"All U.S. military shipments to the Thai dictatorship must cease and U.S. advisers must be withdrawn now."

"Above all, the countries of Indochina — Kampuchea in the first place — require massive infusions of aid to heal the wounds of war and meet the basic needs of the people. U.S., European, and Japanese imperialism — which have done so much over four decades to bring ruin to Indochina — must provide this aid."



# Vatican threatens nuns for abortion rights stand

The Vatican has launched yet another attack on the right of women to choose abortion.

The form of this latest assault is the Vatican's charging of 24 nuns with "obstinate insubordination" and threatening them with expulsion from their religious orders unless they retract a public statement they made opposing the Catholic church hierarchy's official stand against abortion rights.



## WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

less they retract a public statement they made opposing the Catholic church hierarchy's official stand against abortion rights.

The nuns were among the signers of an ad sponsored by Catholics for a Free Choice that appeared in the October 7 *New York Times*. The ad pointed to the "diversity of opinion" among Catholics about abortion. It disagreed with the Vatican view that abortion is murder and therefore "immoral in all cases."

The statement said that "a large number" of Catholic theologians believe that abortion "can sometimes be a moral choice" and pointed out that abortion had not "always been treated as murder" in the church's history. It concluded with a call for a discussion of abortion rights among Catholics and demanded that priests, nuns, and

brothers who publicly dissent from the official church position not be penalized.

Despite the threats, the nuns have refused to back down.

The Catholic church hierarchy is leading the charge against abortion rights today. Their stated goal is to make abortion illegal again. The church authorities oppose any idea of equality, dignity, or freedom of choice for women. They are the leading spokesmen and chief ideologues in the ruling class drive against abortion rights.

The fact that the nuns refuse to recant is a reflection of the deep support for abortion rights, including among the big majority of Catholics.

This support comes from the real-life experiences of women who gain a precious measure of control over their own lives by being able to decide whether, when, and how many children to bear. It comes from the experiences of women who have been forced into unsafe — sometimes deadly — illegal or self-induced abortions.

Two of the nuns who signed the statement said their decision to do so came as a direct result of their extensive involvement with women. Since 1981, they have been running a center for the homeless in Charleston, West Virginia. They took a stand, they said, because of "our experience and commitment, which has grown out of our experience of working with people who have struggled with this issue, particularly women, for many years."

The day after the Vatican's threat against them became public, they received a \$1,000 check for their center. The

other nuns who signed the statement work in universities, prisons, and government offices.

The women's liberation movement had a profound impact on every institution in society — and even penetrated the hidebound Catholic church institutions with their all-male hierarchy and deeply reactionary, antiwoman ideology.

One effect of this has been that many nuns now live and work outside the convent. They have a degree of independence and are affected by the world they live in.

Part of the Vatican's motives in taking action against these 24 women is to put their own house in order by putting these women in their place. But it has a broader aim.

The Vatican's reactionary stands on contraception, abortion, and divorce are at odds with the views and practices of a majority of Catholics, especially women. For example, a 1981 poll conducted by ABC news and the *Washington Post* showed that 79 percent of U.S. Catholics supported some form of legalized abortion.

This has shaken the hierarchy's control and challenged its authority. The bishops are trying to cement the cracks in their own foundation by using this case as a warning to other church functionaries. They must try to block any idea that the church's position on abortion can be the subject of discussion, precisely because most Catholics don't agree with the church's campaign to outlaw abortion.

The Catholic church hierarchy is determined to impose forced pregnancies, not only on Catholic women, but on all women. But women will not easily give up the right to control our own bodies through access to safe, legal abortion.

## LETTERS

### Howard Packer

I just heard that long-time Socialist Workers Party member Howard Packer died.

When I first came in contact with the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance in 1968, I was one of many deeply alienated youth. These youth saw injustice everywhere and the only response from most adults seemed to be excuses, rationalizations, and hypocrisy.

The activity against the Vietnam War gave many of us something to focus our energies on, and it was here that I, and many others, ran into the SWP and YSA.

One of the things that confirmed the feeling that I had made the right choice in joining the YSA occurred when I attended a class given by Howard Packer on a book by Lenin. What I remember to this day was my surprise at meeting someone over 30 who did not rationalize away and accommodate to injustice, who did not use their superior experience in life to confuse you in your efforts to figure out what was going on in the world. He was someone who had not given up the struggle during many difficult years and who was using his talents to encourage youthful efforts to figure things out and extend the fight against injustice.

I felt that if a movement could produce people like this — that is, older people who actually helped young people move forward — then maybe the YSA was not just an organization that sounded like it had some answers but was one that could actually produce some results.

Another thing that struck me about Howard was that he never lost his sense of proportion about disputes within the party. When he disagreed about this or that, he never let those disagreements deflect him from the task of defeating capitalism and building the party that could accomplish this task. His confidence in socialist ideas, and confidence that events would clearly decide disputed issues, enabled him to always maintain a comradely tone.

Without people like Howard the road of my generation would have been much harder. His life was a statement for all about his confidence in the future and that confidence rubbed off on not a few of us.

John Votava  
Chicago, Illinois

### Irish back NUM

Readers of the *Militant* will be especially gratified to know that here in New York City some of the most significant support for the British miners strike has been organized by activists in the Irish movement.

The New York H-Block/Armagh Committee, originally formed to aid Irish hunger strikers, held two fundraising benefits for the miners in November and December. It is planning a third for January 13. The first raised \$850 and the second over \$1,500.

Folksingers Ewen MacColl and Peggy Seeger, who have produced a taped "musical documentation" of the current miners' struggle, were among the entertainers at the first fundraiser. At the second, a Yorkshire miner spoke, describing the intransigent spirit of the strikers and their wives. NUM-produced videos on the strike were shown. One of these exposed the cop brutality against the strike and compared this to scenes of British troops beating protesters in the north of Ireland.

Benefit organizers met striking British miners in Ireland last August. Both groups visited the nationalist ghettos and attended meetings and demonstrations. And they fled the hail of plastic bullets and swinging truncheons together when British troops attacked an anti-internment march in which the British miners were among the first contingents.

The Socialist Workers Party was a cosponsor of the December benefit.

Jean Fargo  
New York, New York

### UFCW strike

*Militant* readers will be interested in the outcome of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 880 meatcutters strike against the Kroger grocery chain here in northeast Ohio. The strike was reported on in the September 28 issue of the *Militant*.

Through their strike, which began on September 11 and lasted for 26 days, the meatcutters were able to push back some of the worst concession demands Kroger tried to force down their throats.

Kroger had threatened to close their stores in this area unless the meatcutters knuckled under. But instead of the \$2 an hour wage cut Kroger demanded, the final settlement held the wage cut to 50 cents

an hour, and there were no cuts in medical benefits. However, the union was forced to accept straight-time pay for Sundays and holidays.

Meanwhile, during the Kroger strike, negotiations were going on for the 14,000 other UFCW Local 880 members who work at the other grocery chains in the area. They had continued to work although their contract also expired on September 10. On October 23, a meeting of some 8,000 Local 880 members voted overwhelmingly to reject the grocery chains' final contract offer and approved a strike.

One half hour before the strike deadline, union officials announced a settlement and called the strike off. A three-year contract had been arrived at that included a two-year wage freeze, and loss of one week's vacation and two holidays.

One aspect of the contract which particularly concerned workers was a "special compromise" for one of the stores, Fazio's. This compromise allowed Fazio's to use part-time workers at near minimum wages to help "save" the company.

The contract was approved on November 22. On December 5 Fazio's laid off 200 part-time clerks — UFCW members who had been making \$10.30 an hour. To replace them they hired 400 part-time baggers at \$3.45 to \$4.05 an hour. Some of the laid-off workers had been at Fazio's for 12 years. "Just implementing the new contract," said Fazio's.

Susan Loman  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Grenada revolution

I am writing to respond to the letter from "a reader" printed in the November 30 *Militant* which attempts to use a quote from Lenin to discredit the Grenada revolution and smear Maurice Bishop. In doing this "a reader" turns Lenin into his opposite.

The Grenada revolution occurred in March 1979, when over 30,000 people took to the streets in mass protest over the planned murder of Maurice Bishop and other leaders of the New Jewel Movement by the proimperialist thug regime of Eric Gairy. Keep in mind that the population of Grenada is only 110,000!

This puts the lie to the reader's counterrevolutionary implication



that the Grenada revolution was without mass support. The Grenada revolution was a genuine popular social revolution that came to power through a mass insurrection, a revolution embodying the hopes and aspirations of the vast majority of the poor and oppressed masses.

In this way, the Grenada revolution followed in the tradition of the workers and peasants revolution in Russia that occurred on November 7, 1917, when the forces of the workers and soldiers councils (soviets) led by the Bolsheviks overthrew the landlord-capitalist provisional government.

A reader  
Seattle, Washington

### Ferraro campaign

The title of Pat Grogan's article, "Ruling class made gains through Ferraro campaign," is only true on a surface level. Temporarily, the ruling class has persuaded a certain number of people that the Ferraro nomination proves "anything is possible in America if you try hard enough."

But on a deeper level, having women and minority candidates of bourgeois parties be nominated and elected will ultimately expose the limitations of capitalism. For once they are elected and things do not change, the charade is over.

Here in Philadelphia, for example, the election of a Black mayor has demonstrated that a politician's skin color has zero to do with the system's ability to eliminate unemployment, housing abandonment, and other supposedly unsolvable problems.

Capitalism will continue to adapt in superficial, cosmetic

ways — but as the saying goes, "you can fool some of the people some of the time..." And cosmetics, after all, will wash off in any good downpour.

Albert Cassorla  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Correction

In the chart that appeared with the article, "There is nothing more important than a child," in the December 28 issue of the *Militant*, one of the figures is misleading. The chart says that before the 1959 revolution there were 3,000 doctors in Cuba compared to 20,545 today. Actually, as Fidel Castro pointed out in his speech, there were some 6,300 doctors in Cuba at the time of the revolution. But when the U.S. blockade began about half of them left, with most coming to the United States. The 3,000 doctors who remained became the backbone of Cuba's medical training programs.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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.



## Canadian gov't presses efforts to convict abortion-rights doctors

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The Canadian government is pushing forward in its efforts to counter challenges to that country's reactionary law which severely restricts the right of women to choose abortion.

After a Toronto jury acquitted doctors Henry Morgentaler, Robert Scott, and Leslie Smoling in November of charges of conspiracy to perform abortion, the Ontario government announced December 4 that it would appeal the acquittal.

Alongside this government attack, anti-abortion terrorists have stepped up their threats of violence against Morgentaler and his clinic in Toronto. On the radio December 2, Joe Borowski, a well-known foe of abortion rights, reported on an offer of \$10,000 to anyone "who does to Morgentaler what he does to the unborn." Borowski and other abortion-rights foes equate abortion with murder. Morgentaler has already been assaulted by a man wielding garden shears and his clinic has been vandalized and firebombed since it opened in June 1983.

This latest threat, which amounts to putting a price on Morgentaler's head, is a continuation of the terrorism against abortion clinics that has been occurring in both Canada and the United States.

The Catholic church hierarchy in Canada, like its U.S. counterpart, has given its blessing to antiabortion rights violence. In a November 25 letter to Toronto Catholic parishes, Cardinal Emmett Carter urged Catholics "to curb and if possible to eliminate" the "abomination" of abortion.

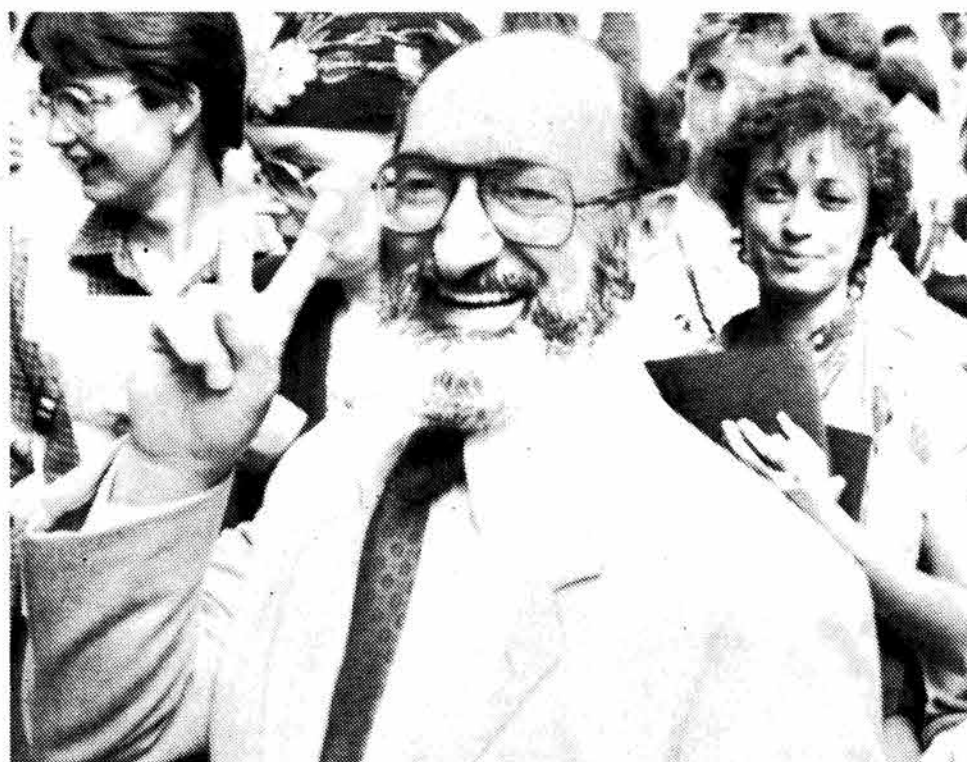
Despite these latest attacks, Morgentaler reopened his Toronto abortion clinic on December 10.

Abortion in Canada is illegal except under highly restricted conditions. According to law, abortions can only take place in an accredited hospital and only after the approval of a special committee. The Ontario government had denied accreditation to Morgentaler's clinic.

Morgentaler based his actions firmly on the defense of women's right to abortion. In the Toronto trial he admitted breaking the law. He argued that it was a woman's right to choose whether or not to terminate an unplanned pregnancy. The current law, he explained, only allows abortions under restricted, arbitrary conditions. Many women cannot receive safe, legal abortions in Ontario. Thousands are forced to either leave the province to obtain them, or to bear unwanted children. The law is unjust and discriminates against women, Morgentaler argued. Therefore, the doctors were justified in breaking the law and providing women with safe abortions.

The jury, in a unanimous decision, agreed. This latest acquittal marks the fourth time Morgentaler was tried and acquitted by a jury for violation of Canadian abortion laws. After he was tried and acquitted three times by juries in Montreal, the Quebec government finally dropped all charges against him. As Morgentaler explained after his latest acquittal, "The voice of the people have spoken eloquently through the jury system four times. How many more trials do we need? How many more appeals do we need?"

The provincial government in Ontario, as well as the federal government, has no intention of granting women this basic democratic right. That's why it has appealed the jury's decision and will drag Morgentaler through the courts for several more years.



Dr. Henry Morgentaler with supporters. He was acquitted by jury for fourth time of charges of violating Canada's restrictive abortion laws. Ontario government has decided to appeal his acquittal.

The government hopes with this latest legal move to bleed Morgentaler financially and to exhaust his will to struggle. The antiabortion rights terrorists, encouraged by the government's attacks against Morgentaler, hope to terrorize him and all supporters of abortion rights. Like the abortion-clinic bombers in the United States, these terrorists hope to intimidate women and their supporters into retreating

from the fight for abortion rights.

The Canadian government's attack on abortion is not limited to this appeal. Toronto police have been allowed to keep the equipment they had seized previously from Morgentaler's clinic. Ontario Solicitor-General George Taylor has stated that he will let Ontario police loose once again to raid Morgentaler's reopened clinic and press new charges.

## Slain Vietnam solidarity activist honored



Professor Edward Cooperman

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — A meeting to honor the life and work of Edward Cooperman drew more than 100 people at the Unitarian Church here December 14.

Cooperman, a physics professor, was shot to death October 13 in his office at California State University in Fullerton. Cooperman was a well-known advocate of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam.

His death is being viewed in the context of a series of assassinations and other attacks on supporters of Vietnam.

Minh Van Lam, a former student of Cooperman's, has been charged with murder and is set to go on trial this month.

Speakers who attended the memorial meeting to pay tribute to his work included Cooperman's friends, scientific colleagues, and leaders of various struggles.

Roger Dittmann, a Fullerton physics professor, told of some of the many projects in which Cooperman had been involved, including a lawsuit against Dow Chemical over the use of Agent Orange. Cooperman was head of the Committee for Scientific Cooperation With Vietnam.

Recently returned from the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, Dittmann said, "many international scientific people are watching the outcome of this case."

The newly formed International Committee for Justice for Ed Cooperman sponsored the meeting.

Committee chair Tony Russo, best known as a defendant in the Pentagon Papers case, called Cooperman a "genuine hero. I first met him in 1977 after his first trip to Vietnam, when he showed films on that country."

A meeting at which Cooperman showed the films that year, including one made by Cuba, was broken up by right-wing Vietnamese, mostly former soldiers in the Saigon army.

"Why was he killed?" Russo asked. It was because of "his role in bringing about strong steps toward postwar reconciliation in the past year."

Russo cited Cooperman's work in attempting to defuse the "missing in action" question, which the U.S. government is using to slander Vietnam. Cooperman had been a "source of comfort to the families" of MIAs, Russo noted.

Frank Wilkinson told of his recent visit to Vietnam as part of a delegation organized by Cooperman.

Head of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, Wilkinson pointed out that "only 10,000 people are left in the camps in Vietnam — military leaders of

the old regime — and the Vietnamese say they are free to go to the United States," but Washington won't take them.

Klaasje Cooperman, widow of the slain professor, told of Cooperman's growing apprehension about attacks on himself, particularly since his most recent visit to Vietnam last summer. She said he was concerned about "the frogmen," members of a crack CIA-trained underwater demolition team who carried out sabotage in North Vietnam.

An anonymous message from a Vietnamese-American friend of Cooperman was read to the meeting. Many Vietnamese live in fear of the organized right-wing gangs that operate in their community.

In May 1984 two Vietnamese advocates of normal relations between Vietnam and the United States were shot in San Fran-

cisco. One died and the other was seriously wounded. In 1982 a Vietnamese publisher in Houston was murdered. Rightist Vietnamese groups reportedly claimed responsibility for both killings. Police have done nothing to seriously apprehend the killers.

In addition, right-wing Vietnamese have frequently tried to break up pro-Vietnam meetings.

Evidence in the Cooperman case points clearly to a politically motivated killing.

Defendant Minh Van Lam's attorney, Alan May, claims his client is nonpolitical. However, May is a prominent right-wing political figure. A former Green Beret in Vietnam, May has links to both the Reagan and Nixon administrations.

Evidence points to May having been hired by the right-wing Vietnamese Com-

Continued on Page 8

## Family blasts investigation

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

NEW YORK — At a December 28 reception for Klaasje and Bob Cooperman in New York City, the *Militant* had the opportunity to talk with them about the investigation into the killing of Professor Edward Cooperman. Klaasje was Cooperman's wife, and Bob was his brother. Edward Cooperman, a scientist and founder of the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, was shot to death on October 13, 1984, in his university office in California. Minh Van Lam, a Vietnamese student, has been charged with the murder.

With great frustration, Klaasje explained that the investigation is in the hands of the Orange County district attorney, who is not

cooperating with the family. For example, she said, the district attorney only interviewed her after she insisted that he take a statement.

Bob Cooperman, who went to California after his brother's murder, listed some of the irregularities in the investigation. First was the coroner's refusal to allow the family to view the body. Only after Bob Cooperman threatened to go to the press did he see the body. Immediately after the official autopsy the body was embalmed, which, Cooperman explained, is not standard operating procedure and made a thorough independent autopsy impossible. Klaasje Cooperman said that even the off-

Continued on Page 8