

New York socialists nominate Andrea González for mayor

BY FRED MURPHY

NEW YORK — At a well-attended rally here January 12, the Socialist Workers Party announced that Andrea González will be its candidate for mayor of New York City in the 1985 municipal elections.

González, a 33-year-old Puerto Rican worker who grew up in Brooklyn, was the SWP's vice-presidential candidate in 1984. González pledged that the first phase of her campaign will focus on mobilizing New Yorkers for the April 20 march in Washington, D.C., against U.S. military intervention in Central America.

Build April 20 march

"The campaign for mayor of New York City will be an antiwar campaign," González declared. "Our campaign will be using all our energy, resources, and effort to build the April 20 march.

"Because this is a campaign for working people," she continued, "it will defend working people everywhere in the world." She elaborated by pointing to the "many international positions, all of which are reactionary," taken by her Democratic opponent, incumbent Mayor Edward Koch:

"Koch supports the Zionist regime of Israel. We support the right of Palestinians to a homeland.

"He supports the British government in

Ireland. We defend the Irish patriots.

"And he opposes the Cuban revolution, while we stand with the Cuban revolution."

González said her campaign would also champion women's rights and take on the reactionary campaign against abortion rights led by New York's Roman Catholic archbishop, John J. O'Connor. Denouncing the mounting wave of "antiwoman terror," González pointed out that because of his role as "a leader of the ideological campaign against abortion," O'Connor is "as responsible for the bombing of abortion clinics" as those who actually set the explosives.

Another major focus of her mayoral candidacy, González said, will be to counter the reactionary "law and order" drive currently being whipped up in New York and nationally around the racist vigilante Bernhard Goetz. The big-business news media has been portraying Goetz as a hero since he tried to kill four Black youths on a subway car here on December 22. The shootings left one youth paralyzed for life.

Racist cop violence

The capitalist press' sympathetic approach to Goetz, González said, amounts to a "green light to go out and blow away any Black or Puerto Rican." At the same

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Andrea González

Militant/Jeff Powers

Call is out for April 20 antiwar protest

BY TOM LEONARD

An attractive new brochure is out to publicize the April 20 march on Washington against the U.S. war in Central America. The brochure can be effectively used to involve unions, Black and Latino organizations, antiwar groups, and women's rights organizations in supporting and building this important demonstration.

A steering committee representing some 55 organizations put out the call for the action under the name of the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

The steering committee includes: American Indian Movement, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Democratic Socialists of America, International Association of Machinists, League of United Latin American Citizens, Mobilization for Survival, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights, Operation PUSH, SANE, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Trans-Africa, Union of Democratic Filipinos, United Food and Commercial Workers, United States Student Association, US Peace Council, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and many others.

The four demands put forward in the call are: "Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; Create jobs, cut the military budget; Freeze and reverse the arms race;" and "Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home."

The brochure takes note of the fact that the April actions mark the tenth anniversary of the end of the U.S. war in Vietnam and states: "We recall that war and what it took to stop it. We know our protests make a difference, and when we stand with the struggling people of the world we have the strength to turn the tide."

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Castro: Cuba cancels Nicaragua's debt

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

TIPITAPA-MALACATOYA, Nicaragua — In front of a huge sign reading "July victory, people's victory, symbol of Cuba-Nicaragua friendship," a new sugar mill was inaugurated here January 11. Called the "Victoria de Julio" (July Victory) mill, the refinery is the largest in all of Central America and the largest single industrial plant in Nicaragua. It was built with extensive aid from Cuba.

Cuba cancels Nicaragua's debt

Present at the inauguration ceremonies was Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro, who gave a two-and-a-half hour speech. He announced that Cuba is cancelling the \$73.8 million debt owed by Nicaragua. This represents most of the machinery and much of the construction of the sugar mill, which is of Cuban design and technology. Castro said Cuba is cancelling the debt because of the hundreds of millions of dollars of damage

Nicaragua has suffered as a result of the war Washington is waging against the Nicaraguan people.

The Cuban leader was awarded the Order of Augusto César Sandino by Nicaraguan Pres. Daniel Ortega. A speech was also delivered by Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's minister of agrarian reform and agricultural development, who gave a detailed report on the impact the new refinery will have on the country's economic development.

The mill will employ some 2,000 workers and indirectly create another 6,500 jobs. It will generate some \$50 million a year in foreign currency earnings and also save the country millions of dollars in energy costs, in part by producing fuel as a byproduct of sugar refining.

"Without the contribution of the Cuban revolution, it would have been totally impossible to build this refinery," Wheelock said.

Gathered here for the mill's inauguration were top leaders of Nicaragua's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), army officers, members of the National Assembly, and leaders of the unions and other mass organizations. More than 1,000 Cuban and Nicaraguan workers and technicians who built the plant were present, as were residents of the townships of Tipitapa and Malacatoya, which are about 25 miles northeast of Managua.

Also participating were Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, a vice-president of Cuba; sev-

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Gov't refuses to act against antiabortion terrorists

The federal government has told abortion clinic operators to expect violent attacks around the date of January 22, the 12th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

But the government didn't say it would do anything to prevent the attacks.

In the face of scores of bombings and arson attacks that have destroyed abortion clinics across the country, this can only be taken

threaten, harass, and physically attack women seeking abortions; and send death threats to physicians and clinic operators — telling them to cease and desist.

January 22 is an important date for both supporters and opponents of women's rights. That date in 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that abortion is a woman's legal right. This was the most far-reaching advance won by women's rights fighters in decades. It codified in law the right of women to decide whether, when, and how many children to bear. The right to control her own body is the most fundamental of a woman's rights — a precondition for full equality.

The legalization of abortion freed thousands of women from being maimed and hundreds from dying each year due to illegal, back-alley or self-induced abortions.

It was an historic step forward for women. Because the right to abortion is so central to women's liberation, it has been the target of attacks by opponents of women's rights since the day it was legalized.

The most serious blow was the joint Democratic- and Republican-backed Hyde Amendment passed by Congress and simi-

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EDITORIAL

as a green light to the violent foes of abortion rights. The warning says, in effect, that the government intends to do nothing to prevent such attacks.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms delivered the notice to abortion clinic operators. It said, "Although we have absolutely no intelligent information concerning planned anti-abortion activities" on January 22, "we believe that the symbolism of this date represents a potential for increased action directed toward abortion clinics and or prochoice offices."

No notice was sent to the violent foes of abortion rights — who blow up clinics;



Cuban president Fidel Castro (left) attended inauguration of Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega (right).

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

BY AUGUST NIMTZ

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Supporters of the *Militant* in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area made significant gains in regularizing plant-gate sales during the last four months of 1984. During that period, industrial workers at plants in the area bought 179 copies of the *Militant* and *Young Socialist*. A total of 151 sales teams — with usually two people on each team — sold the papers.

The most papers have been bought by workers at the Ford Motor Company's Twin City Assembly plant in St. Paul, where Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason campaigned at the plant gate last October. From September through December, 78 *Militants* and *Young Socialists* were sold to Ford workers. Black workers, who are

about 25 percent of the work force, bought about half the papers.

Many of these United Auto Workers union members moved to Minnesota after being laid off from Ford plants in Michigan and Ohio. Some of them remember seeing the *Militant* before in the cities where they used to live. Workers at this plant rejected the 1982 concessions contract with Ford, but they voted by a small majority to accept the 1984 contract.

Militant teams are also working to regularize sales among rail workers in the area. The Twin Cities (St. Paul and Minneapolis) are a major rail center, with a lot of United Transportation Union members who have suffered harsh cutbacks in recent years.

The most consistent sales of the

Militant have been at one of the Burlington Northern (BN) yards, the largest rail carrier in this area. Ed García, who sells the *Militant* regularly at BN, reports that the response to the paper is overwhelmingly positive, and that some workers remember the *Militant* from past sales.

García said that while workers are searching for money to buy the paper, he takes the time to have brief political conversations, to show workers particular articles they might be interested in, and to invite them to the weekly *Militant* Forum.

García says that "a lot of workers who don't stop to buy the paper drive by waving, with their thumbs up, or give me a clenched fist sign of solidarity."

One of the primary reasons for the success of *Militant* plant-gate



Militant
Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential candidate Mel Mason (left) with auto worker in front of Ford Twin Cities assembly plant.

sales teams is that by returning to the same plant gate every week at the same time, the workers get to know the paper and the salespeople. This regularity is not easy to establish, since most team members are industrial workers

who are involved in other political activities, and who have to eat and sleep, as well.

But by giving plant-gate sales a high priority, schedules and other organizational problems can be worked out.

Dallas Blacks face 'perjury' rap in killer-cop case

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — More than 150 people attended a rally here January 10 in support of three Black teenagers who have been indicted for their testimony in the killing of a Black man by a Dallas cop.

January 14 was the scheduled date for the opening of the trial of 18-year-old Victor Franklin, the first of three Blacks to be tried on charges of "aggravated perjury." The rally demanded that all charges be dropped against Franklin and also against Lonnie Leyuas and Brenda Frost.

The three testified before the Dallas County grand jury that they saw Dallas cop Melvin Cozby shoot Michael Frost in the back in November 1983. Cozby was not charged in the killing and remains on the Dallas police force.

Lenell Geter, a nationally famous victim

of a racist frame-up in nearby Greenville, Texas, was a featured speaker at the rally.

"If it can happen to these kids, it can happen to someone else," Geter told the rally. "In my case there were individuals that perjured themselves, individuals who mistakenly identified me, but they were not ordered to come down to the courthouse. They did not suffer. I am praying that justice will take its course in this case," Geter said.

Also speaking at the event were city council members Diane Ragsdale and Al Lipscomb and representatives from a dozen community organizations.

The outpouring of sentiment at the rally was the result of continued killings and shootings by Dallas police. In 1984 police killed 17 people — nine Latinos, seven Blacks, and one white. Already there have been two police shootings of Blacks this year.

"The city always wants peace," city council member Ragsdale told the rally. "But as long as there is no justice, there never will be peace." Ragsdale led the rally in chants of "The people united will never be defeated!" and "The cops and the Klan go hand in hand!"

Rev. Leroy Haynes spoke for the Interdenominational Minister Alliance, an organization representing 250 churches. The Alliance voted January 7 to pay the legal fees of the indicted Black youth.

Haynes recalled the history of the Dallas Black community's struggle against oppression. He said that in 1860, three Black slaves set fire to downtown Dallas and burned it to the ground. The three "negro rebels" were hanged by white slaveowners.

City council member Lipscomb has been sued for slander by cop Melvin Cozby. "Cozby said he lost his second job because of statements I made," Lipscomb said. "But I never told Mr. Cozby to maim people and to verbally abuse and kill people in this community."

Al Smith, representing the Socialist Workers Party, addressed the rally. "The police are an occupational force in the Black community," Smith said.

"Police brutality against Blacks and Latinos is used by the capitalist system to increase profits of corporations here in the U.S. — just as the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines are used to police the rest of the world to guarantee the profits of U.S. corporations in other countries."

Adelfa Callejo, a prominent leader of the Latino community, offered her solidarity with the Black youth and also condemned the grand jury selection system. The grand jury that indicted Franklin, Leyuas, and Frost was all-white, Callejo pointed out.

Hilda Cuzco spoke for the Citizens Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee,

which organized the rally. "Blacks and Latinos have been the target of police brutality these last years," she said. "They have been stopped for no reason. Guns have been pointed at their heads. A victory in this case would be a victory against racism."

Given a place of honor at the rally was Maxine Frost, the mother of Michael and Brenda Frost.

Also given places of honor were Mary Black and Minnie White. White is the sister of Willie Paul White, the first police shooting victim of 1985. Mary Black is the sister of Joyce Ann Brown, a frame-up victim who is in jail on a robbery conviction.

Dallas Jackson, who chaired the meeting, called on people to support the Black teenagers by attending the Franklin trial.



Militant/Lee Oleson

Lenell Geter speaking at Dallas rally

Utah miner hits Ala. antilabor law

BY MARK CURTIS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After the Wilberg mine disaster in Utah last December, Don Cologie, the former president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) local at Wilberg, came to Alabama. He joined the labor movement's campaign against a bill to limit job injury lawsuits.

This bill — now signed into law by Gov. George Wallace — takes away workers' right to sue management if they are injured in an accident caused by "simple negligence." Under the law, a worker will have to prove "willful" negligence as the cause of injury to be able to sue.

Labor unions here opposed passage of the law even though it includes a raise in workers' compensation for some.

At a January 3 UMWA news conference here, Cologie spoke about the Wilberg mine, owned by the Emery Mining Corp. He called the fire there "a shameful, need-

less tragedy."

"Based on my personal experience in Utah at the Emery mine, an abolition of the rights of Alabama miners now would create the situation that existed at Emery — a disregard for safety at the expense of production," he said.

More production and profits for the companies is why Governor Wallace has pushed so hard for this law, even calling a special session of the state legislature to introduce it. The majority of workers in Alabama oppose it, however, and in 1982 voted down a proposed amendment to the state constitution banning job injury lawsuits.

Wallace's argument that giving in to big business will result in more jobs was taken up at the press conference by Thomas Youngblood, UMWA District 20 director, who said, "Would you be willing to give up an arm and a leg to draw more industry to Alabama?"

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Jamaica: protests hit price hikes

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Big protests erupted across the largely Black Caribbean island nation of Jamaica January 15, on the heels of a 21 percent increase in the price of gasoline.

Thousands blocked roads with cars and burning tires. Schools and most offices and businesses in the capital, Kingston, were closed by the action of angry demonstrators.

The biggest demonstrations took place in the poorest section of the capital. Protests were also held in the northern coastal resort towns of Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, and Negril.

At least three demonstrators were killed, according to initial press reports. No figures were released on the number who had been arrested.

The new hike in the price of gasoline came on top of a 100 percent increase last year. It was the latest in what former prime minister Michael Manley called a series of "unwarranted, unjustified, and unbearable" price increases.

Manley, prime minister of Jamaica from 1972 until 1980, was driven from office by a successful CIA destabilization campaign. His successor, Edward Seaga ("CIAga" to many), promised to restore the economy by employing imperialist economic remedies.

What little development there has been over the last four years — mainly in the bank balances of the country's richest investors — has been at the expense of the overwhelming majority of Jamaica's workers and peasants.

Unemployment in this country of two million — the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean — is officially reported at 25 percent. But even a poll conducted recently by the right-wing pro-Seaga daily *Gleaner* showed the real figure to be closer to 40 percent.

Even before the latest increase in fuel prices — which will affect the cost of electricity, public transportation, and every product transported within the country — inflation was about 40 percent.

Staples in the diet — such as rice, vegetables, chicken, and milk — have increased in price by 30 to 75 percent in the

last year. Water bills have been hiked by 60 percent. Electricity bills can sometimes run higher than rents. This in a country where more than half the population has an income of less than \$8 a week.

This steep decline in the standard of living is the product of imperialist exploitation — both direct and indirect.

Not content to simply strip Jamaica of its mineral and agricultural wealth, the U.S. government took further steps to enrich U.S. investors. Acting through the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington forced the Manley government to curtail a number of food-subsidy, employment, and health-care programs in order to qualify for badly needed loans. Even though these programs only began to scratch the surface of what was needed, they took "too much" money out of corporate profits.

Under Seaga, these cutbacks were intensified with the promise that such sacrifices would help restore "economic stability."

In Jamaica, as in the nearby Dominican Republic last year, deeply felt frustration has begun to boil over into active protest.

"Every week," one unemployed carpenter in Kingston told reporters a few months before the protest, "another item goes up in price." But, he added: "You can't draw your belt no tighter."



Protester in Kingston, Jamaica, adds fuel to fire serving as a roadblock. At least four demonstrators have been killed as protests erupted across the island.

'Militant' tells truth on mine fire

BY TOM LEONARD

Militant sales teams in coal mining areas around the country are reporting a good response to the *Militant's* coverage of the Wilberg mine fire in Utah that killed 27 people, including 19 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

One important reason for this response is that it was the first opportunity for workers to hear what the UMWA and working miners had to say about the fire. For example, in the Salt Lake City area — prior to the *Militant's* report — there was only a short film clip on one television station that covered the UMWA press conference reporting the union's intention to pursue an

independent investigation of the fire.

Another reason some workers liked the *Militant* article is that it was written by union members who worked in the Wilberg and nearby Deer Creek mines and could provide some facts about what went on inside Wilberg.

This was true of some workers at a mine-machinery plant in Salt Lake City, which is organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), where there are regular plant-gate sales of the *Militant*. The sales team sold all 10 *Militants* they had with them. Later, four workers came up to a member of the sales team and asked to get copies of the paper, too. Another IAM member said he was going to try to get the Wilberg fire article put up on the union's bulletin board in the plant.

Six *Militants* were also sold to members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who work at the Utah Power & Light Co. plant that uses coal from the Wilberg mine.

Some of the best sales in Salt Lake were in the suburb of Magna, where a lot of Kennecott Copper workers live. So far, sales teams in Salt Lake City have sold 152 copies of the *Militant*.

Birmingham, Alabama, socialists sold 52 *Militants* with the Wilberg mine story, many of them to coal miners who live near the city. One miner in Birmingham bought the *Militant* after first asking a member of the sales team if he was for a "communist takeover" in Central America. But the miner was interested in the report on Wilberg and said he'd buy the paper to see what it had to say. Birmingham socialists ordered an extra bundle of 50 *Militants*.

Militant sales teams also got into discussions about a new law in Alabama that restricts the right of workers to sue com-

panies for injuries resulting from industrial accidents. One worker said that it used to be that the government was neutral between the company and the workers, but with this law, the government will be behind the company. Some sales-team members were first asked by workers interested in buying the paper if the sales people were for or against the new law.

St. Louis *Militant* supporters also were able to talk to coal miners about the Wilberg fire. They sold a dozen papers to miners working in southern Illinois.

Socialist coal miners in Morgantown, West Virginia, report that a number of their coworkers wanted to buy the *Militant* and discuss the fire.

Despite snow and freezing weather, Pittsburgh sales teams sold 10 *Militants* at nearby coal-mine portals. In addition they had excellent sales in Washington and Charleroi, Pennsylvania, where a lot of miners and steelworkers live.

A number of wives of miners and steelworkers there said they wouldn't buy the *Militant* because they didn't want to read about the disaster. "I just can't handle it. I'm a miner's wife. I have to live with it every day," one woman said.

One miner told the sales team he knew the company in Utah was covering up the truth about the "accident," which was caused by speedup. He said the same kind of speedup is going on in his mine. He went to work every day, he said, "feeling death."

It was very cold on this sale, so a lot of people would get their money out and be ready to buy the *Militant* before they left the store they were shopping in. Despite the cold, 44 of them stopped to buy a copy of the *Militant*.

Wanted

Young fighters to change the world

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) is a nationwide organization of young fighters with a political program and the determination to change the world.

We are committed to mobilizing opposition to the U.S. aggression against our brothers and sisters in Central America and the Caribbean.

At the center of our activity this spring is building support for the April 20th demonstration in Washington, D.C., that will demand, "No U.S. intervention in Central America!"

We believe that the fight for justice and freedom is a worldwide struggle by working people to end war, racism, sexism, unemployment, exploitation, and the soci-

ety that causes them: capitalism.

We are convinced that young people today have no future, unless we fight for a new society to meet human needs, not big business profits: socialism.

Participation in politics for us means joining in this struggle here in the U.S. where the worldwide battle for justice and freedom will ultimately be won.

We are young people — Blacks, Latinos, women, men, workers, students, and unemployed — all joined together in 45 chapters across the U.S. fighting for this common goal.

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THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Vol. 49 No. 1 JANUARY 11, 1985 75 CENTS

Company greed killed coal miners in Utah | *Behind U.S. lies about*

Emery Mining Corp. conceals

UMWA honors victims of Utah mine fire

UMWA: unsafe condition caused Utah mine deaths

BY CECILIA MORIARITY

1984-1985

... for safety violations

Headlines from *Militant* on Wilberg mine fire in Utah.

N.Y. socialists launch campaign

Continued from front page

time, Koch and other capitalist politicians have seized on the incident to call for more cops in order to counter "crime." This, she said, will mean "organized, legal vigilantism" and more police murders of Blacks, like the recent killings of Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Stewart, and Daryl Dodson.

González described the situation working people face in this city. The much hailed economic recovery has meant an increase in employment for professionals, while unemployment for working people continues to rise.

The city unions face stepped up attacks. In the current round of contract negotiations, said González, the city is continuing its antiunion policies, which have led to a deterioration in social services like mass transit and trash collection. She also pointed to the fact that half the city's children live in poverty, and an estimated 45 percent of Hispanics live below the poverty line. The school system has become intolerable for a majority of the students — approximately 50 percent drop out of school.

In the face of this situation, González said, union officials and the official leaders of the Black and Latino communities are not organizing a fight to defend the unions and oppose racist attacks. Rather, they propose going to the polls to elect yet another liberal Democrat for mayor.

Liberals in disarray

At present, González is the only declared candidate against Mayor Koch. The liberal wing of the Democratic Party in the city has been floundering for weeks in an effort to come up with a "viable" candidate who can challenge Koch in the primary election. Black liberals such as Basil Patterson and Congressperson Charles Rangel of Harlem had hoped a year ago to ride the crest of Jesse Jackson's Democratic Party presidential bid and put together a local "Rainbow Coalition" in order to "dump Koch." But they have since bowed out under pressure from the Democratic hierarchy, to which they are beholden.

Other liberals such as ex-deputy mayor Herman Badillo, who is Puerto Rican, and City Council Pres. Carol Bellamy are now testing the waters. Neither has aroused much enthusiasm in the Black and Puerto Rican communities or among working people in general.

González noted that Badillo is viewed by many Puerto Ricans in the city as a *pitiyanqui* — a "little Yankee" who upholds the U.S. colonization and militarization of Puerto Rico.

If the liberals and the middle-class radicals who orient to them eventually do settle for an "anti-Koch" Democrat, González predicted, working people will be told that "we must dump the 'bad Democrat' Koch and elect the 'good Democrat' instead. The problem with this is that Koch himself used to be a 'good Democrat' and first ran for mayor in order to 'dump the Democratic Party machine.'"

What has happened since, she said, is not that Koch has changed, but that the entire capitalist class — both in New York

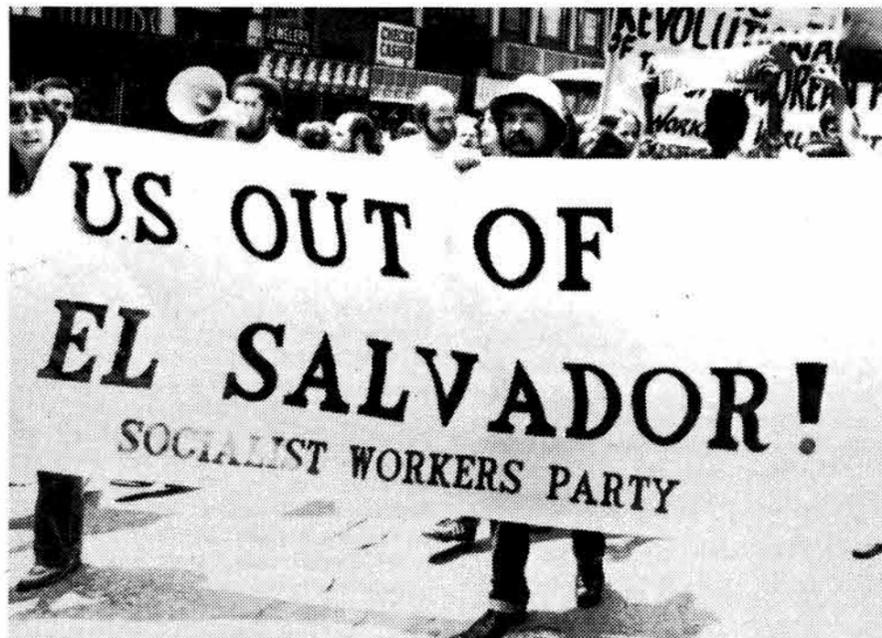
and nationally — has launched an offensive against the rights and living standards of working people. "All the capitalist politicians have moved to the right, so now these 'dump Koch' people are having trouble even finding a liberal politician to dump Koch with."

"Our campaign," González concluded, "starts from a totally different perspective. It starts with what workers need and are fighting for. We point to things like the April 20 march, to the independent organization and mobilization of working people, to demand action on things that affect our lives. This is the road toward real, effective political action by our class to defend our rights and our living standards."

Solidarity with New Caledonia

González was joined on the rally platform by Mel Mason, her running mate as the SWP's presidential candidate, and by Teresa Delgadillo, chairperson of the New York chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Mason reported on his recent speaking tour of Australia and New Zealand, where he was able to carry out many rich discussions on U.S. and international politics with working people. In New Zealand, he met leaders of the oppressed Maori popula-



Militant/Lou Howort
Socialist Workers Party banner at New York City antiwar protest. Socialist mayoral candidate sees U.S. war in Central America as major issue in race.

tion, who look to the struggle for Black rights in the United States for lessons and inspiration.

Mason also met representatives of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FNLKS) of New Caledonia while he was in New Zealand. He hailed their fight to liberate their Pacific island nation from French colonialism, and called for a moment of silence in honor of FNLKS leader Eloi Machoro, murdered in New Caledonia

by French police on January 11.

Delgadillo discussed how youth were attracted to the New York YSA by its active support for the SWP's 1984 presidential campaign. She pledged a redoubled effort by the YSA in support of the socialist campaign of González for mayor. She also read a message of solidarity sent to the rally by the New York chapter of the Bloque Socialista (Socialist Bloc), a revolutionary organization in the Dominican Republic.

SWP backs April 20 antiwar action

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Delegates to a convention of the Socialist Workers Party, held here in mid-January, voted unanimously to make building the April 20 Washington, D.C., demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America the party's central priority.

The convention heard a special report on the demonstration by Thabo Ntweng, a member of the party's National Committee and its representative to the coalition that is organizing the action.



Young volunteer brigadistas working in Nicaraguan potato fields. Young people like these will be attracted to April 20 protest.

The demonstration, Ntweng told the convention, offers a solid opportunity to mobilize opposition to Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua and its escalating military support to crushing the popular liberation forces in El Salvador.

The delegates agreed that it was essential to involve the entire party membership in the work of building the demonstration. This means unstinting activity in the local demonstration coalitions. Help will be needed in staffing coalition offices, with mailings and phone calls, outreach and fund-raising efforts, organizing of transportation, and all the related activity essential to a successful action.

Involving anti-apartheid rights groups in the demonstration is an important part of building activity. The demonstration will also demand an end to U.S. corporate and governmental complicity with South Africa apartheid.

Several Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano groups, as well as two major unions, are already sponsoring the action. The SWP convention delegates — the majority of whom are members of industrial unions — felt that there was big potential for helping to bring more unions into active endorsement and participation in the march.

They noted the significant amount of labor activity around Central America thus far. A number of local union officials, as well as rank-and-file members, have been to Nicaragua to see for themselves the effects of the U.S.-backed war on that country and what's really happening there. In

some cases union locals have heard report-backs on these visits or have seen slideshows.

A number of major unions are participants in the Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. There have been reports from union delegations that have gone to El Salvador, and resolutions protesting the repression directed against unionists in that country. Various union bodies have also heard presentations by Salvadoran unionists seeking solidarity here. Further tours of this kind are projected.

Delegates resolved they would make special efforts to actively involve trade unionists in the general activities of the local coalitions building the demonstration. They saw the building of such coalitions as key to the success of the protest.

Several delegates also noted that there are thousands of young people in this country who have participated in volunteer work brigades in Nicaragua. They have returned with a sense of strong commitment to the revolution there and a desire to register their opposition to the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua. Building April 20 offers them, and many others, the opportunity to do so.

Ariz. activists protest government raids

Continued from back page

war Washington is waging against Nicaragua.

"Four days ago we stood in a room where, on October 28, six children between the ages of 3 and 11 were killed by a mortar round fired by the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force, a terrorist group], who are supported by our government.

"I arrived here yesterday to find out that the war is not only in Central America, the war is here also. Our country is making war against the poor, against the weak, against those who don't have someone to stand up for them. The war is here, not only in Central America."

The news conference ended with the announcement that there will be a prayer vigil procession on January 23, marching to the Federal Building where defendants will appear in court. Hundreds of people from Phoenix and Tucson are expected to participate.

A legal defense fund for the defendants has been set up. Contributions can be sent to Valley Religious Task Force Legal Defense Fund, 1226 W Osborn Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85013.

Call is out for march on Washington, D.C.

NO INTERVENTION BUILD A JUST SOCIETY REVERSE THE ARMS RACE OPPOSE APARTHEID/END RACISM

APRIL 19-22 • PROTEST IN WASHINGTON DC

4 DAYS IN APRIL

Brochure with call for April 20

Continued from front page

On Central America the brochure affirms: "We are clear in our call for an end to policies that include daily threats and attacks against the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, policies that will inevitably lead us into regional war in Central America, and the danger of greater military conflict in the Middle East and Southern Africa."

Also included in the brochure is a calendar of proposed activities:

- April 15, Tax Day — local activities are planned throughout the country.
- April 19 — there will be educational and cultural events in Washington, D.C.
- April 20 — march and rally in Washington, D.C.
- April 21 — training sessions for lobbying and nonviolent civil disobedience on

Monday.

• April 22 — lobbying Congress and nonviolent civil disobedience at selected sites throughout Washington, D.C.

The brochure points out that major activities are also being planned in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle to coincide with the Washington, D.C. mobilization.

Because of the growing opposition to Washington's war in Central America, and the increasingly broad sponsorship for the actions, coalitions are being formed in most major cities. Among them are Portland, Oregon; Minneapolis; Boston; Cleveland; New York; Pittsburgh; Cincinnati; Baltimore; and Richmond, Virginia.

Copies of the informative brochure can be ordered from April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598.

Neb. farmers demand end to foreclosures

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — On January 8, the day before the 1985 Nebraska legislature convened, more than 1,000 Nebraska farmers and their supporters crowded into the Nebraska State Capitol Building rotunda.

Many of the farmers were members of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), National Farmers Organization, Farmers Union, North American Farm Alliance, and the Nebraska Grain/Livestock Associations.

Corky Jones, Nebraska state president and national vice-president of AAM, opened the rotunda rally by asking the governor and the legislature for a state of emergency and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

Jones said that family farmers are pointing the finger of blame at all public officials because the Reagan administration is not the first or only one that has failed farmers. The farmers assembled here, he said, are united by the problems they face.

The rally was built out of a meeting held a week before in David City, Nebraska. Seven hundred farmers gathered there to explain the farm crisis to state and federal government officials.

David City is a farm community in Nebraska where nine banks have closed. As the farmers were driving to the rally in Lincoln, the front page of a Lincoln newspaper announced the state had closed the doors of the Dannebrog Bank the previous day.

Another Nebraska town, Verdigre, had its bank closed in September of last year because its debts were much higher than its assets. The bank's borrowers, the majority of whom were farmers, had been extending their loans each year by paying part of their debt and using that payment as collateral to continue their farming operations. A new owner reopened the bank and the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation stepped in to try to collect almost \$48 million in loans. But many farmers couldn't pay.

Nationally, 77 banks have closed in the last year. The FDIC has assumed control of some of these banks and many others that are close to failing. Many of these banks are in farm communities and the FDIC has put pressure on farmers to pay loans.

FDIC officials sent letters to a number of farmers around the Verdigre area, notifying them that all proceeds from any sale — of grain, cattle, hogs, farm equipment — would be taken away and applied toward their unpaid loans. Many farmers who sell their products are on lists which the FDIC is using to go after the proceeds from these sales. And farmers can only deposit or cash their checks if they have the farmer's signature and that of a local FDIC official.

Many Verdigre farmers who already were living on very little income are now left without enough money to buy food, clothing, or medicine, let alone pay for heating bills or gasoline for the tractors that haul the feed for their livestock.

A group of farm leaders and church people in Verdigre have set up a food and grain pantry to make donations to the farmers. Donations of food, clothing, cash, and grain have been sent to Verdigre from many parts of the country. The National Farmers Organization donated 3,000 bushels of grain.

"We have what we consider a grave injustice to human rights" being carried out by the FDIC, said Rev. Ronald Buttiato, who helped lead the drive to collect food and other donations for the farmers and their families.

Burns Baker, an FDIC liquidation officer in Omaha, answered by asking a Verdigre town meeting, "Is it inhumane to enforce the law?"

Nebraska Gov. Robert Kerry was in-



Farm leaders and church people in Verdigre have set up food bank. Above, volunteers haul food into pantry.

vited to speak at the Lincoln rally. He claimed that farmers are producing too much and that food prices are too low. People must be convinced, he said, to pay higher prices and he indicated that he wasn't sure that he supported a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

Stan DeBoer, past president of the Nebraska AAM, also spoke to the rally. He disagreed with the governor, pointing out that food prices are not lower than previously. He also stressed that the governor and the legislature must do something to solve the problems facing family farmers.

DeBoer pointed out that one reason farmers are losing their farms is because of high interest rates. DeBoer, who helped organize the national AAM protests in 1977 and 1978, said that the situation facing farmers is much worse today than it was then.

The *Militant* asked Dorthy Lau, a leader of the North American Farm Alliance, what she thought of the rally. "I hear the same bull from this politician, but we need to continue to organize and put pressure on them to get help for farmers," she said.

A Nebraska rail-union leader who attended the rally in support of the farmers said farmers and labor are both being attacked by big business and the government. Both need to organize together, he stressed, because together workers and farmers are much stronger than they are separately.

Anti-apartheid protests increasing

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Public debate on the ties between Washington and the apartheid regime in South Africa is developing as protests step up at South Africa's embassy in Washington, D.C., and across the country.

As the eighth week of daily anti-apartheid pickets here begins, nearly 1,000 people — the largest turnout for any single day yet — came to the January 8 embassy protest.

Billed as "Lawyer's Day," hundreds of lawyers, legal aides, and law students swelled the picket ranks. Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark and seven others were arrested at the embassy door that day.

The protests, organized by the Free South Africa Movement, have begun to take on a national character, spreading to at least 15 cities.

Organizations from the city's growing Latino population have joined the protests. The director of the city's bilingual education program was arrested. A local group of performers, writers, and poets have formed "Artists Against Apartheid." They march each Wednesday, often also staging performances. One day a sizeable number of librarians came as an organized group.

Nationally, more than 500 people have been arrested at various South African government facilities and at businesses selling South African products such as the Kruggerand gold coin. So far, local and federal authorities here have dropped charges against those arrested, who generally spend the night in jail.

Mounting public pressure has caused some activity on Capitol Hill. There are currently four separate bills before the Congress that would restrict different aspects of U.S. aid to South Africa.

One bill would ban new investments by U.S. corporations. Another would ban bank and International Monetary Fund loans to South Africa, along with Kruggerand sales here. Two other bills would halt the transfer of nuclear technology from the United States to South Africa and end the continuing sales of military weaponry and computers.

The Free South Africa Movement has raised a number of demands, starting with the freeing of political prisoners, including the hundreds of Black political and labor union leaders who were arrested following last November's general strike — the largest political strike by Blacks in South Africa's history.

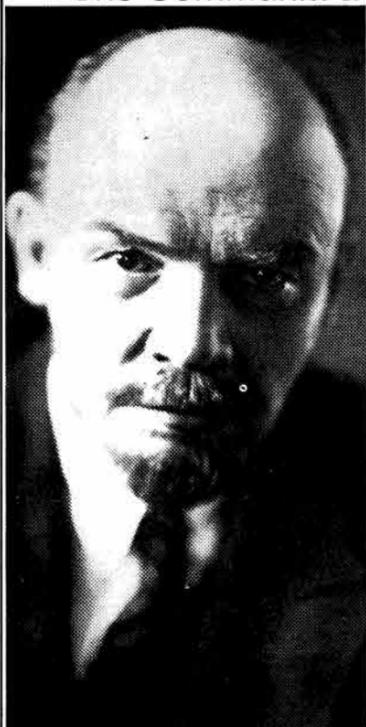
Pressures to free African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie Mandela, also a fighter against apartheid, are being stepped up. Winnie Mandela has been under house arrest for 23 years. She cannot meet with more than one person, except direct family, at a time. Nelson Mandela has been jailed for 22 years.

In addition to calling for the release of all political prisoners, the Free South Africa Movement is demanding a "Constitutional Convention" in South Africa that would elect a government based on "one person, one vote."



Militant National Education Association has joined protests at South Africa's embassy in Washington, D.C.

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OCAW strikers return to work — fight for contract continues

BY TERRY HARDY

NEW ORLEANS — Eleven fighters for union recognition and women's rights returned to their jobs November 29 after being out on strike for five weeks against the Mississippi river Grain Elevator. The women are members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-447. These secretaries had voted for the union a year earlier because they were fed up with sexual harassment, job discrimination, and arbitrary work rules and disciplinary policies.

The clerical workers had been confronted with 10 months of company stonewalling in an effort to obtain a contract. They had met with the company 27 times — but with no results. The strikers have returned to work, where they continue their efforts to try to force the company to sign a contract with them.

Since the women went back, the National Labor Relations Board has ruled that the company bargained in "good faith" with the clerical workers.

This was a hard-fought strike. It was no easy task for only 11 women to keep an around-the-clock picket line going. In addition to the picket line at the land entrance to the plant, they occasionally set up a picket line on the river entrance.

The 90 male production workers honored the picket lines by also going out on strike. The company threatened to fire these workers — part of another unit of Local 4-447 — if they walked the picket line. So they played a supportive role by "standing the area" of the picket line and keeping a strike headquarters staffed 24 hours a day. Dozens of workers from Chevron Chemical, American Cyanamid, National Gypsum, and other plants showed their solidarity by joining the picket line.

Terry Hardy is a member of OCAW Local 4-522 at the Tenneco refinery in Chalmette, Louisiana.

Ortega sworn in as Nicaraguan president



Daniel Ortega speaking to a gathering of working farmers last October in Managua during 1984 election campaign.

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We will continue to be for 'Free homeland or death!'... We have sworn it here, in this same plaza where we came together that joyful day of victory, July 19, 1979....

"And we have sworn it before the working people, before the Sandinista National Liberation Front; we have sworn it before our heroes and martyrs. Before Sandino, the eternal president of Nicaragua, we have sworn it and we will keep our promise."

With these words, Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Daniel Ortega concluded his inaugural speech as president of Nicaragua on January 10. (Elections took place here last November 4.)

He and Vice-pres. Sergio Ramirez were officially sworn in at an open-air ceremony in front of several thousand guests, including the FSLN National Directorate, the entire National Constituent Assembly, the diplomatic corps, leaders of mass organizations, outstanding FSLN militants, and a broad range of international representatives including Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro. Also present were the foreign ministers of Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico, who make up the Contadora Group, which has been conducting negotiations around an Act of Peace and Cooperation for Central America.

Thousands of residents of Managua were also in attendance at the event, shouting "People's Power!" at various points throughout Ortega's speech.

The ceremony, held in front of the tombs

of Carlos Fonseca and Santos López, began with Ortega paying his respects to these two founding leaders of the FSLN.

Inheritors of Sandino's program

In the speech Ortega gave after taking the oath of office, he affirmed, "We are inheritors of the historic program of Sandino," referring to Nicaraguan independence fighter Augusto César Sandino, who led the struggle against U.S. Marines here

in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Sandino's program, said Ortega, "defended in the first place the sovereignty and self-determination of Nicaragua; the recovery of the natural resources for the people; the end of financial dependence; the turning over of land to the peasants; the development of education, filling the country with schools and raising all workers to at least a level of primary education; the establishment of labor legislation; the emancipation of women; the protection of childhood; the development of the Atlantic Coast; the formation of a new political force with popular content; the formation of a patriotic army; and the guarantee of administrative honesty."

Ortega then reviewed the progress the revolution has made, since it triumphed July 19, 1979, in the areas of land reform, unions and other types of mass organizations, education, and health care.

He pointed out that the major obstacle to further progress has been the ongoing counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua being carried out by a mercenary army organized and financed by the U.S. government.

Despite the thousands of Nicaraguans killed by these mercenaries, he said, "we are ready to accept, for immediate reintegration into society, all those persons who have been involved in armed counterrevolutionary activities," on the sole condition that they "turn over to the Honduran and Costa Rican authorities the arms utilized in such activities." This "would be under the auspices of the governments of Honduras and Costa Rica and of the International Red Cross."

Ortega said Nicaragua will also continue

to directly receive those who, laying down their arms, decide to return to the country under amnesty guarantees already established by the revolutionary government. Some 1,500 Nicaraguans have done so thus far.

This generosity of the revolution contrasts with the implacable attitude toward Nicaragua held by the U.S. government. Ortega explained, "the war we are suffering is imposed on us by the might of the U.S. military power, and only by definitively defeating that aggression can we persuade the United States that this revolution cannot be vanquished."

Quoting from a poem by the Nicaraguan poet Rubén Darío, directed at the U.S. imperialists, he said, "Take care; there are 1,000 cubs of the Spanish lion loose." The young soldiers of the Patriotic Military Service, Nicaragua's draft, are often called "cubs of Sandino."

Economic program

Ortega briefly outlined some perspectives for 1985. "The Economic Program for 1985," he said, "can be summed up as: defense of the real wages of the productive workers with more discipline, with more productivity; incentives for producers; goods and services for the productive workers; struggle against price-hike gougers and speculators." And, he said, "we will keep advancing in the agrarian reform, with more land for the peasants, until no peasant remains without land in Nicaragua."

Ortega ended his speech and the inauguration ceremony with the slogans, "National unity to gain peace! For peace, everyone against the aggression! Free home-

Continued on Page 8

Brooklyn Rivera victim of CIA attack

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — CIA terrorists have tried to murder Nicaraguan Miskitu leader Brooklyn Rivera, Sandinista Commander of the Revolution Carlos Núñez charged at a breakfast with foreign correspondents here January 8.

Rivera is the central leader of the Indian organization MISURASATA, which has been active in the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua. However, last fall Rivera returned to Nicaragua under terms of a government amnesty. He visited Miskitu communities and began ceasefire negotiations with the Nicaraguan government. Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión, one of the nine members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front National Directorate, was assigned to negotiate with Rivera.

At the same time the Nicaraguan govern-

ment set up a commission, also headed by Carrión, to draft a special law of autonomy that will guarantee Indians and Blacks on the Atlantic Coast control over local governmental affairs, and the right to preserve and develop their own languages and cultures.

News that Rivera had been seriously wounded was first broadcast by Radio Impacto — a thinly disguised CIA station that functions openly in Costa Rica — on January 3. According to Radio Impacto, which did not cite a source for its information, Rivera had been wounded in Nicaragua's interior in a battle with the Sandinista People's Army.

Later U.S. wire service reports, citing alleged MISURASATA leaders who refused to be identified, claimed the battle took place January 4 — the day after Radio Impacto's first report.

Sandinista Commander Carlos Núñez told correspondents that these stories were "speculation that tries to cover up what really happened."

Radio Impacto functions generally as the voice of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), the counterrevolutionary coalition to which MISURASATA had been affiliated. In recent weeks, Radio Impacto has carried repeated statements by top ARDE figures such as Edén Pastora and Alfonso Robelo, denouncing Rivera for holding talks with the Sandinistas.

Núñez said that the attempted assassination of Rivera should not be viewed in the narrow framework of the factional differences between various wings of the counterrevolution.

"What's happened in the case of Brooklyn Rivera is not due to differences between factions, but rather to the fact that Brooklyn Rivera raised internationally, and brought to this country, a whole concrete position for thought.

"There are sectors of the armed counterrevolution that would never agree to a policy like that of negotiation, of the return of the Miskitus to the national territory, leaving aside the most serious and decisive efforts that Commander Carrión is heading up."

Núñez said that "the central objective of carrying out this assassination attempt against Brooklyn Rivera was to block and sharply cut off the conversations that he was establishing with the government of Nicaragua through Commander Carrión."



Miskitu leader Brooklyn Rivera (left) with Sandinista Lt. Cdr. José González in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, last November.

'IP' on Australian anti-immigrant drive

In Australia, like the United States, employers often seek to blunt worker militancy by fostering chauvinist sentiments against foreign-born workers, who are accused of "taking away jobs." Such views are also echoed by top trade union bureaucrats.

In the upcoming, February 4, *Intercontinental Press*, an article by Andy Jarvis (taken from the New Zealand revolutionary Marxist newspaper *Socialist Action*) looks at a campaign carried out by a section of the Australian labor movement against immigrant sheep shearers from New Zealand. Most of these shearers are Maoris, New Zealand's oppressed indigenous people.

This campaign has included physical attacks on Maoris and demands that the Australian government restrict immigration.

Jarvis stresses, "Any union fight which has as its axis blaming fellow workers for the ills of capitalism and pitting working people against

each other — whether it be a campaign for immigration restrictions, or for protectionist import controls — is a dead end. It undercuts the working class solidarity which is at the heart of unionism, and thereby weakens the labor movement and strengthens the hand of the bosses."

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SWP condemns murder of FLNKS leaders

Mel Mason, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, recently returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand. While there Mason met with revolutionary socialists and other militant fighters in the workers' and farmers' movements, including leaders of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. The FLNKS is leading the struggle for national independence being waged in this French colony. On December 1, the FLNKS announced the formation of a provisional government of Kanaky.

Mason pledged to take back what he had learned about this struggle to working people around the world and to help organize solidarity with the Kanak people. Mason, a delegate to the January 12-15 SWP convention in New York City, proposed that the SWP gathering send the following message to the Kanaky provisional government. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

Provisional Government
Republic of Kanaky

Comrades:

Delegates to the U.S. Socialist Workers Party's convention denounce the cold-blooded murder of comrade Eloi Machoro by the French police. This murder, along with the murder of other Kanak activists, shows that the same brutal force French imperialism used to repress the peoples of Algeria and Vietnam is now being used to repress the Kanak people. We call for the immediate withdrawal of French occupation forces and join you in demanding the complete and immediate independence of Kanaky.

We solidarize with your courageous struggle to end 130 years of French imperialist domination of your country. Your struggle is an example and inspiration for all the oppressed and toiling masses throughout the world.

As the reaction of the French imperialists to your just demand for independence becomes more and more bloody, we are reminded of Vietnam and Algeria and the brutal rule of French imperialism over these peoples. We are reminded also of the resounding victory scored by the workers and peasants of Vietnam in 1954 and in Algeria in 1962 when they booted out the French imperialist beast.

Following the French defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists moved in to fill the breach. Likewise, in Kanaky today, the U.S. government stands behind the French rulers in their drive to maintain their domination. As thousands of French troops are deployed to occupy your country, the U.S. government is deepening its war to overturn Nicaragua's revolutionary government and to smash the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador. The U.S. ruling class no more

wants to lose Puerto Rico — its direct colony in the Caribbean — or give up the Marshall Islands, Guam, its other colonies in the South Pacific, or its domination of Central America than the French imperialists want to lose Kanaky, Guadeloupe, or Martinique. Your struggle thus threatens U.S. imperialism in that a victory in Kanaky would serve as an example and inspiration to the peoples of Puerto Rico and the Philippines — not to mention the impact it would have on the toilers fighting against the U.S. war in Central America.

We pledge to support your struggle and to utilize all our resources to build solidarity with that struggle among U.S. workers and farmers and all supporters of democratic rights and national independence. Blacks, especially, will be inspired by your fight for independence.

As we work to build solidarity with your struggle, we draw strength and inspiration from it. Your struggle helps the battle of working people in this country against our exploitation and oppression. U.S. working people face a great challenge and responsi-



Some of the more than 5,000 French imperialist troops and police that occupy New Caledonia.

bility: dealing the final death blow to world imperialism. Your struggle extends this revolutionary process and helps bring closer the day when the oppressed peoples of the world wipe imperialist domination

from the face of the earth forever!

Long live the FLNKS!

Victory to the Kanak people!

Long live the People's Republic of Kanaky!

UAW local defeats company takeback

BY GARY TRABUE

DETROIT — Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 189 ended their 15-day strike against Aetna Industries Heavy Stamping Division December 18. With three-quarters of the 150-member local voting, the company's third contract proposal was ratified by 86 percent.

The union won immediate seniority and Christmas holiday pay for probationary employees, who make up half the work force at Heavy Stamping. Workers also won 69 cents an hour over the life of the contract, as well as five minutes additional break time.

Overall, the settlement registered a sig-

nificant victory for workers at Heavy Stamping, especially given the takeback demands the company had started out with.

On the negative side, the contract implements a new absentee program that allows only two unexcused absences over a six-month period, in place of two absences a month allowed under the old contract.

The company also forced a two-tier wage system on the union. New hires are to be paid \$1.50 an hour less than the old starting pay (\$4.33 instead of \$5.83), and probation has been extended from 75 days to 90.

But there was general agreement among union members that things would have

been much worse if they had not gone out on strike, and that the two week job action had strengthened the union.

Aetna Industries provides parts for the Big Three auto companies — Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler. Its plants are all organized by UAW Local 189, but they each have different contracts and expiration dates. This favors the company by dividing the work force and weakening the union.

At Heavy Stamping the work force is further divided by the fact that three-quarters of the workers are classified as unskilled. And more than half of the unskilled are probationary production workers, with an average age of 19. For most, it is their first time working in an industrial plant, and they are frequently the victims of a revolving-door policy.

When a strike-authorization vote was taken on the first contract offer December 2, it was 117 for, 11 against, and 1 not voting.

On December 16 the union membership met to vote on the company's second proposal. The initial company offer of a 43-cent raise across the board was changed to a multi-tier system that would give skilled workers a raise of more than \$1 an hour but production workers just 1 cent.

This met with opposition from the production workers — both permanent and probationary. Of the 119 members in attendance, 55 voted for, 64 against.

Discussion at this meeting focused around the pitiful 1-cent pay increase offered to production workers and the importance of fighting for permanent status for probationary workers, thus trying to counter the company's policy of dividing the union.

At issue was saving the union. It was considered likely that if the strike continued, the company would resort to use of scab labor and other union-busting tactics. This is in fact what has happened at the AP Parts plant in Toledo, where scabs have replaced UAW members who have been out on strike since May.

After the vote against the second contract offer, the company, union officials, and the federal mediator met and came up with a new proposal, which included permanent status for probationary workers.

On December 17 the union membership voted to accept the contract.

In an overall context of a weak union, poor working conditions, and pitiful wages, the workers at Heavy Stamping stood their ground, gained respect, and went back to work with a union that was stronger than it had been before.

"We went out on strike in unity," one returning production worker said. "We went back with unity, respect, and a union to build on."

Gary Trabue is a member of UAW Local 189.

N.Y. pickets hit Israeli terror

BY ALI EL-AMIR

NEW YORK — On January 3 of the new year, a picket to protest the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps in that country was held at the Israeli consulate here. The protest was called by the Committee to Protest Sharon's War Crimes, which is made up of a variety of organizations including the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, November 29 Committee for Palestine, American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism, Inc., International Jewish Peace Union, and the Socialist Workers Party.

This committee grew out of the first East Coast Regional Conference of the November 29 Committee for Palestine held on

the December 1-2 weekend. Approximately 100 people attended the founding conference. Participants included various representatives of Arab-American, African-American, and socialist organizations, including the November 29 Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Women's Collective on the Middle East, Palestine Aid Society, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, Workers World Party, and Socialist Workers Party.

The conference noted that the massacres of the Palestinian refugees in the Beirut, Lebanon, camps of Sabra and Shatila helped break the illusions a lot of working people held in Israeli "democracy." Conference participants discussed the fact that massacres like these are built into the Israeli imperialists' determination to maintain their occupation of the Palestinian homeland by any means necessary.

The first action proposed by the founding conference was the demonstration to target the continued colonial occupation of Lebanon. Gen. Ariel Sharon, the present minister of industry and former minister of defense during the massacres, is suing *Time* magazine for reporting Israeli, and specifically his, culpability in the deaths of hundreds of people in the camps of Sabra and Shatila in the 48 hours of September 16-18, 1982.

Among the chants at the picket were "Sharon gives arms to U.S. wars, we support the people of El Salvador," pointing to Israel's role as a surrogate arms supplier to U.S.-backed rightist regimes. A statement issued by the committee explained: "Sharon assumed control of West Beirut. International law placed him under a direct unequivocal duty to protect the civilian population. . . . He actively facilitated the arming and provisioning of the armed militia which entered the camps. . . . Were justice done, Sharon would face charges as a war criminal in an International Court of Law."

Despite the cold and darkness, 135 people participated to register their opposition to Zionism's expansion into Lebanon.

New Caledonia freedom fighters killed

Continued from back page

ists. On December 5, for example, French settlers murdered 10 Kanaks in an ambush. Right-wing colonists openly call upon French settlers to arm and mobilize themselves against the Kanaks.

One such rightist is Roger Galliot, mayor of Thio. Galliot is a rich capitalist landholder and owns a nickel mine. He is linked to the ultraright National Front in France.

Galliot's nephew, Yves Tual, was killed January 11 and French settlers blamed Kanaks for his death. Some 1,000 French colonists went on a rampage through the streets of Nouméa, the capital, burning buildings and chanting anti-independence slogans. Galliot said, "I'm giving the authorities an ultimatum. If they do nothing, we'll deal with the killers ourselves."

The French imperialist rulers sent more troops to New Caledonia asserting they would be used against the "extremism" of both the Kanak independence fighters and the French settlers. The assassinations of Machoro and Monaro show, however, that the government of François Mitterrand is determined to back the colonists and crush

the Kanak revolt against French imperial rule.

The Kanak people, who have fought French domination for more than 100 years, are just as determined to win their independence.

New Zealand socialists support Kanaky struggle

Susanna Onei, a leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia, addressed the December convention of the Socialist Action League of New Zealand. After her talk, the convention sent the following greetings to the FLNKS.

Delegates of the 9th New Zealand Socialist Action League conference send greetings to the FLNKS and give fraternal solidarity to the struggle for an independent Kanaky.

We pledge support in the fight against French and New Zealand imperialist domination of the Pacific.

French troops out of New Caledonia!
Vive Kanaky Libre!

Minn. meat-plant owners attack union

BY JIM ALTENBERG
AND MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn. — The motto of this city is "Austin — where the good life is here to stay." But the 1,700 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local P-9 aren't so sure.

On October 8, the George A. Hormel & Co., the largest employer in this city of 21,000, slashed wages by 23 percent, from \$10.69 to \$8.25 per hour. Local P-9 had rejected smaller pay cuts in negotiations over the previous two months, so Hormel imposed the new wages unilaterally.

Deep concessions

Jim Guyette, president of Local P-9, explained the situation to the *Militant*. In recent years UFCW workers in the packing house industry have come under severe attack from the packers. Despite strikes and other efforts to fight back, deep concessions have been wrung out of the union.

Companies like Wilson Foods and Iowa Beef Processors have claimed bankruptcy as a way to get out of union contracts. Another packing giant, Swift, reorganized part of its operation as a "new company" — Swift Independent Packing Co. — and cut wages in the renamed plants. Armour has closed a number of plants, including one in South St. Paul, Minnesota, that once employed 4,000 workers. These packers' successes have been used against other UFCW workers. Hormel is claiming that it needs wage cuts to compete with these companies.

A system of pattern bargaining exists in the meatpacking industry. Under the master agreement between the UFCW and the other major packers, if a majority of companies reduce wages others can try to do so as well. Hormel, citing the \$8.00- to \$8.25-per-hour wages now paid at Wilson Foods, John Morrell, and Swift Independent, says it can cut wages to the same



Part of December 9 demonstration in Austin, Minnesota, by Hormel workers protesting 23 percent wage cut by company's owners.

level. They also point to the fact that Oscar Mayer imposed an \$8.25 rate without the agreement of the union there.

Guyette points out that many of these wage rates are paid at recently "founded" or "reorganized" plants and were not part of the master agreement.

Hormel

While other packers have claimed poverty, Hormel has continued to make profits over the past few years. "Hormel is greedy, not needy," says Guyette. Hormel even rejected a union proposal that would tie wages to company profits, allowing the company to cut wages when profits were less than \$7.5 million per quarter! Workers at the Austin plant have accepted 16 major concessions in the last 21 years, according to Guyette. None has ever been won back.

In 1978 under Hormel's threat to move

out of Austin, workers loaned the company \$20 million interest-free out of their wages to construct a new plant. Pay increases for workers employed at the time would go for years to come into the new plant fund. Only those hired after the new plant was opened would take home more money. Further concessions were imposed in 1981 when workers took a wage freeze and gave up their cost-of-living adjustment in favor of a provision allowing them to renegotiate wages in September 1984.

Incentive pay for increased production was also given up. Hormel got absolute power over the speed of the production line and other working conditions. Hormel's flagship, state-of-the-art plant in Austin is run faster than any other U.S. meatpacking plant. The result has been profits of over \$28 million for five years running for Hormel, and large numbers of serious injuries,

tendonitis, and extremely harsh working conditions for Hormel workers. "There's a lot of guys in there who are all bandaged up," one worker told the *Militant* at the plant gate. The next person who came out had his entire forearm and hand bandaged.

Organizing against wage cuts

In October union members and townspeople began to organize against the cutbacks. "P-9 won't take a wage cut without a fight," said Guyette.

On October 7 the local voted by a ratio of 14 to 1 against the cuts and to authorize a strike if necessary. The women in town organized a rally and a campaign to put signs reading "We Support Local P-9" up in area businesses. Hand-made signs are also visible around town and in car windows with slogans like "High profits, low wages — hogwash."

On October 14 a mass union meeting, open to supporters, drew 3,000 people. The featured speaker was Ray Rogers, founder of Corporate Campaign, Inc. Rogers is credited with helping the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union unionize the J.P. Stevens Co. through what is called a "corporate campaign" strategy. The concept of the corporate campaign is to economically isolate a corporation from the banks and insurance companies that support it. One tactic is to convince unions to withdraw pension funds and other accounts from these banks. In Austin this would mean targeting Hormel's major creditor, First Bank System, and DeWalt Ankeny, president of First Bank and a Hormel director. At this meeting the union members voted unanimously to hire Rogers and CCI for approximately \$340,000.

At another meeting of 3,000 held on December 9, Rogers outlined a three-phase plan against Hormel. Phase I will include a massive literature campaign to inform the public of the union's grievances against Hormel and First Bank. Phase II, to begin in March, will include public demonstrations and mass leafletting in front of First Bank branches throughout Minnesota. Phase III, beginning in mid-April, will coincide with the annual First Bank stockholders meeting in Minneapolis.

If the local decides to go out on strike, it will be two weeks prior to this meeting. The local is planning a 1,000 car caravan from Austin to Minneapolis for the meeting. They also made plans to pack the Hormel annual stockholders meeting January 29. On December 26 Hormel announced that it was moving the meeting from Austin to Atlanta, Georgia. This will be the first time the meeting has been held outside Austin in the company's 103-year history.

On December 27 an arbitrator's ruling reinforced Hormel's right to cut wages and gave the union and the company a week to negotiate a new wage and benefit package. The meetings that have taken place since then have not made any progress and talks are presently at an impasse.

Iowa meatpackers' union scores victory

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Local 4-P of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) ratified a three-year contract on November 13, winning their 40-week strike against Iowa Pork Industries.

The main issues in this strike were Iowa Pork Industries' (IPI) demands for an 18-month wage freeze (the average wage at IPI is \$7.25) and a two-tier wage system that would pay new hires \$1.75 per hour less than current wages. At a strike support rally last April, picket captain Bud Schulte told the crowd, "This is the first step for shoving the union out the door."

Following their lock-out of more than 200 Local 4-P members last February, IPI continued production with scabs for six months until early August. At that time the company closed the plant due to "unfavorable market conditions" and put it up for sale.

The new contract rejects the company's wage freeze and two-tier proposals. The union won a wage increase of 35 cents per hour for the first two years and a 20 cent increase for the third year. Other gains are: improved hospitalization coverage; time-and-a-half for overtime after eight hours; and maintenance of a guaranteed 36-hour workweek. All union workers will be of-

ferred their jobs back with full seniority. Eleven union members, however, were disciplined with two-week to 30-day suspensions for convictions of "picket line misconduct." Strikebreakers will have to go through normal hiring procedures and will be required to join the union after the company probation period.

Two other union demands were won. IPI's old attendance policy will remain in force. Shortly before the negotiations began, a new policy was unilaterally implemented that did not recognize excused absences for any reason, and after seven absences a worker could be fired.

The union also won its demand that the length of each workday be posted by 1:00 p.m. IPI had previously informed the workers of overtime or short days on virtually no notice at all.

The union agreed to two concessions in the contract. The probation period for new employees was extended from 45 to 60 workdays. The union also agreed to allow the company to set Tuesday through Saturday workweeks six times per year, including four weeks with holidays. The original IPI demand was the right to set workweeks at its discretion.

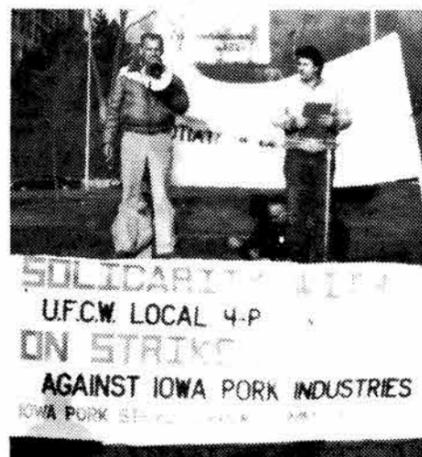
The major factor in winning the strike was the determination and solidarity of Local 4-P members, who stood firm even in the face of the threat of permanent loss of their jobs. Only two of 230 workers crossed the picket lines.

In addition, UFCW butchers in area retail stores refused to handle IPI products, observing the union's Region 13 boycott. Support from other AFL-CIO unions and the community also played an important part, through resolutions, rallies, financial support for strikers, and the distribution of over 40,000 informational fliers.

Local 4-P officials also attribute the victory to the inability of scabs to do the work. By the time the plant shut down in August, production had fallen sharply. IPI owner Harry Weinstein was unable to sell the plant, and if it didn't reopen soon it would have to face U.S. and Canadian certification reinspections.

Strike picket-captain Schulte summed up his view of the strike for the *Militant*. "This is a significant victory for the Twin Cities labor movement. We knew there was no way the union could accept IPI's original offer and survive. We won because of the solidarity of the members. I also want to stress that the women workers played a very important and militant part, especially the Black women. We're going back in strong."

Schulte pointed out some of the tasks now facing the union. One will be promoting solidarity with other union members fighting company attacks. Another will be educating any strike breakers who may be hired, most of whom have never been in a union. Schulte felt they could be won over by explaining the union's victory in the strike.



Speaker addressing April 1984 support rally for Iowa Pork strikers.

Ortega sworn in as president

Continued from Page 6
land or death!"

One day earlier, on January 9, the new National Constituent Assembly, elected on November 4, was also inaugurated. At that event the assembly elected officers, with FSLN leader Carlos Núñez becoming the body's president. The other six officers are delegates of the FSLN and four other parties.

After the elections, Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Election Council, reviewed the electoral process, and then Carlos Núñez spoke.

The National Assembly has as its main task the drafting of a new constitution "incorporating the fundamental rights of Nicaraguans, individual as well as collective, in the profound political, economic, and social transformation that the revolution has brought about."

Núñez added that the body will draft other laws such as a new penal code, a code of criminal procedure, new labor legislation that takes into account "the advances the worker and peasant classes have obtained through their struggle," and a family code that "incorporates the new relation be-

tween couples, their responsibility toward the children, and the rights of minors."

Núñez also laid out the immediate tasks of the assembly. He said, "we will once again go visiting house by house, factory by factory, school by school, neighborhood by neighborhood, cooperative by cooperative, area by area, from north to south, from east to west, through mountains, farmlands and cities," asking the people what they want for their homeland, their country, and their revolution.

"We will gather all the responses and we will write the will of the people into the Political Constitution."

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.

Castro: Cuba cancels Nicaragua's debt

Continued from front page

eral other Cuban cabinet ministers; and many international guests who had attended the presidential inauguration of Ortega the day before.

In his speech, Castro took up the fact that his visit to Nicaragua had not been publicized until his plane landed in Managua January 10. Referring to the many CIA plots to assassinate him, the Cuban leader said, "If Castro does not announce his visit, who knows better than the United States the reasons why I cannot afford the luxury of announcing many visits."

Nicaragua a Cuban 'puppet'?

Castro devoted part of his speech to the accusations by the U.S. government that Nicaragua is a "puppet" of Cuba and that Nicaragua, in turn, is "exporting" revolution to El Salvador.

He pointed out that in the 1930s, long before the triumphs of the Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutions, the workers and peasants of El Salvador carried out an uprising in which 30,000 were killed by the military dictatorship there.

Nicaraguan resistance to dictatorship and U.S. domination also began long before the Cuban or Russian revolutions, Castro explained. Nicaraguans fought U.S. occupation in 1912, he said, when "the October revolution [in Russia] had not yet taken place." In 1927 — before Castro himself was even born — Nicaraguan leader Augusto César Sandino began a struggle against the U.S. Marines, who were occupying his country.

That struggle finally culminated in victory on July 19, 1979, when the Nicaraguan workers and peasants overthrew Anastasio Somoza, the dictator whose family was installed in power by the U.S. government in the 1930s.

'Collaboration an elementary duty'

On Cuba's help in building the Victoria de Julio sugar mill, Castro said that "we view collaboration with Nicaragua... as an elementary duty.

"Other countries collaborate with us, countries with more resources than we have," he said, referring to the Soviet Union and other members of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon). "We, in turn, have more resources than other countries of the Third World, and it is the least we can do.

"That is why we say that to be internationalist is to pay our own debt to humanity."

The Cuban leader pointed out that his country has broad-ranging aid programs, within the limits of its modest resources, with a wide range of other countries. Cuban doctors are working in 25 nations, and some 22,000 scholarship students from more than 80 countries are enrolled in Cuban high schools and universities.

Castro then detailed Cuba's collaboration on the Victoria de Julio sugar mill, work valued at more than \$100 million, although it was provided to Nicaragua at cost.

"Our collaboration with Nicaragua throughout these five and a half years has been based on providing collaboration absolutely free," Castro noted, "except for this project."

When the idea of building the mill was proposed by the Nicaraguan leaders, he said, they asked for credit to cover the construction costs, which Cuba provided at low interest rates.

Washington's 'dirty war'

In 1981, Castro recalled, as work was beginning on the plans for the sugar mill, "the U.S. government began what it calls covert operations."

While the Nicaraguans are making "colossal efforts to increase production and services, a dirty war is being carried out against the country. It has cost lives; it has cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

"In addition," the Cuban leader continued, "Nicaragua inherited what Somoza left, an enormous debt, a country destroyed — destroyed twice in a brief period of time, once by the earthquake, then by

Somozaism, by Somozaist repression, Somozaist bombing of the cities. Nicaragua suffers from high interest rates, low market prices for its products, and the problem of the international economic crisis."

For these reasons, Castro said, the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and government "made the decision, and I take this opportunity to announce it, to cancel this debt of Nicaragua's.

"Thus we donate all this equipment, all these materials, the value of the labor, the physical and mental effort, to Nicaragua."

He explained, "I am deeply convinced that the solution to the problems of many countries of the Third World, which are presently overwhelmed and suffocated by enormous debts and have few resources, is the cancellation of the debt.

"We raised this in the Nonaligned Movement, this principle, not to solve the problems, but rather to modestly begin solving the problems of the Third World countries with less development and fewer resources."

Castro said the governments of the highly developed capitalist countries could well afford to assume that portion of the debt owed to private banks, pointing out that the U.S. war budget next year is more than \$300 billion, close to the figure of the total foreign debt of all of Latin America, which is \$360 billion.

Revolution not exported

The Cuban leader said the U.S. government is once again preparing another white paper purporting to prove that Nicaragua exports revolution, in order to justify renewed open financing of the CIA war against Nicaragua.

"Revolutions can neither be exported nor can they be avoided," Castro said. "That has been shown by life, by history, by revolutionary theory and practice." Referring to Cuba's own experience, he said, "If we had wanted to import our revolution, we would not have known with whom to place the order.

"The fundamental, essential, infallible agents of revolution in this hemisphere," he said, "are the International Monetary Fund and the enormous foreign debt — these are the factors of 'subversion' and of revolution. Subversion is their word, an invention to place the blame on someone. Revolution is our word.

"If solutions are not found to these problems," he warned, "then the conditions of political instability in the countries of Latin America will grow."

Castro said, "There is a clamor for peace in the world, and that is also why the entire world received with satisfaction the news and the communiqué about the meeting in Geneva between the representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States.

"In that communiqué," Castro continued, "there is talk of the willingness of both countries to discuss the questions related to the so-called Star Wars space weapons; to strategic nuclear weapons, long-range and medium-range strategic nuclear weapons; there is talk of negotiating to stop and reduce the arms race; and for the first time in a communiqué of this nature there is the talk of the destruction of all nuclear weapons as a final objective."

He explained that "for the countries of the Third World, this is fundamental because there is no peace if this incredible arms race continues. There won't be the slightest hope for countries of the Third World to resolve that other kind of nuclear weapon that is called hunger, underdevelopment, poverty, the loss of natural resources as is happening in countries in Africa, a true apocalypse."

Castro also pointed out that "it is inconceivable that there could be détente and peace in the world if in our region our peoples are victims of aggression. That would become an element that would upset all international relations."

Why Nicaragua needs weapons

Castro reiterated his support to the efforts of the Contadora Group — made up of the foreign ministers of Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela — to negotiate solutions to the crisis in Central



Barricada

Residents of Managua barrio line up for water at communal tap. Income brought in by exports from new sugar mill will help expand country's antiquated water system.

America. In this context he took up the charge that Nicaragua is arming itself to attack neighboring countries.

He said, "it is absurd, it is ridiculous to think that a revolutionary country would carry out a military adventure against its neighbors. It is against the thinking and ideas of every revolutionary party in this hemisphere.

"Who is Nicaragua arming against?" he asked. "Historically the threat against Nicaragua always came, and today still comes, from the most powerful imperialist country.

"Can a country be criticized for this?" Castro asked. "What should we do when we are threatened? Disarm? Get down on our knees?" And to thunderous applause he answered, "No revolutionary country, when it is threatened, disarms or gets down on its knees!"

Castro said that, in meetings with foreign ministers of the Contadora Group held during his stay in Managua, he had stressed that it is necessary to encourage the dialogue and political negotiations between the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front and the government of El Salvador.

The second point Castro stressed was that "accords are needed that guarantee the security of Nicaragua against direct aggression or dirty wars. That is essential. There have to be agreements that guarantee the security of all the countries of Central America without exception."

Given this, and good faith in the negotiations, "it is possible for there to be peace in the area, and friendly relations between our countries, including good relations, normal relations, between our countries — and in this case I am speaking of Cuba and the United States."

Nicaraguan elections

Turning to recent developments in Nicaragua, Castro said, "it has been a real feat to have confronted aggression, to have fought valiantly, with dignity against that aggression, that dirty war... while being able, at the same time and in the midst of war, to take up the challenge of institutionalization, of elections — elections with traditional liberal rules, or as we would say, bourgeois liberal norms, on that terrain."

Castro awarded medal of Sandino

TIPITAPA-MALACATOYA, Nicaragua — As part of the inauguration of the Victoria de Julio sugar mill here, Nicaraguan Pres. Daniel Ortega awarded Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro the Order of Augusto César Sandino in its highest degree, the Battle of San Jacinto. Sandino led the Nicaraguan liberation struggle in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

In his speech presenting the medal to Castro, Ortega described the Cuban leader as a man "who has loved the people of Nicaragua; who has offered them his example in the revolutionary struggle waged to achieve freedom of his own people... who has known how to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the peoples of Latin America by defending the sovereignty and integrity of Cuba."

Ortega explained that Castro was an example to the young fighters of Nicaragua's

The Sandinistas, Castro said, "did not have the slightest fear" of holding such elections. "They were conscious of their authority and of their morale, but most of all, they were conscious of the revolutionary quality of their people.

"Thus they accepted the challenge. But the enemy did not accept it, imperialism did not accept it, and it tried to sabotage the elections because it was conscious of the popular support of the Sandinista Front."

Capitalist economy

The Cuban leader also took up a proposal made the day before by Daniel Ortega that Nicaragua adopt a foreign investment law. Under this law the country would, under certain conditions, allow for new investments by imperialist-owned companies.

"I do not see this as against our principles," Castro said, reporting that Cuba had also studied possible concessions to imperialist-owned companies, particularly to extract oil in its coastal waters. The essential thing, Castro said, is that the government "defend above all the interests of our people, that it not sell out to a [foreign] firm."

Unlike Cuba, Nicaragua has a capitalist economy with a large sector owned by the workers and peasants government. Castro said "this is not in contradiction to principle.

"The essential problems" facing Nicaragua, he continued, "are those of development, of the correct use of resources, the intelligent use of resources, and above all the defense of the interests of the people.

"There might be a capitalist economy. What there won't be, beyond a shadow of a doubt — and this is essential — is a government at the service of the capitalists. That is something else altogether.

"A government of the people, at the service of the people, of the interests of the people, that is what is essential....

"If I am to say something to my Nicaraguan brothers that could be useful to you, it is this: be conscious that the task is difficult and is complex, but that it is also a noble and honorable task that is well worth carrying out.

"To be a revolutionary, in a revolutionary epoch, is a great privilege for any human being."

Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in their battle against the dictator Anastasio Somoza and imperialism. Following the FSLN's victory, Ortega said, Castro continued to extend solidarity and collaboration to Nicaragua.

Ortega noted that the "gesture of solidarity by Cuba to Nicaragua is violently attacked by the aggressive policy of the United States, which tries to destroy our revolution."

More than to any other people, Nicaraguans owe a debt to the Cuban people, he said, "who have joined their blood with our blood." He praised the dozens of Cuban volunteers slain by counterrevolutionary forces in Nicaragua, explaining that these Cubans came "to bring education, to bring health care, to bring services to the people."

What life is like on a Nicaraguan 'model cooperative'

Introduction

The article reprinted below is from the Oct. 29, 1984, issue of *Barricada*, the daily paper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua. It offers a picture of how the life of peasants in Nicaragua has changed since the July 19, 1979, triumph of the revolution in that country.

In the 1979 revolution, Nicaraguan peasants joined together with workers to overthrow the hated, U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza. Under the leadership of the FSLN, the masses installed their own government, a government of workers and peasants.

Peasants are the majority of the population in Nicaragua. Prior to the revolution, many had no access to land. Big landowners — who were less than 2 percent of all farmers at that time — owned almost half the farmland. The poorest 50 percent of the peasants owned only 3.4 percent of the land.

Since the revolution, the FSLN-led government has been carrying out its pledge that "Not a single peasant will be left without land." A thoroughgoing land reform has been instituted.

Small and medium peasants have formed their own organization, the National Association of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG). This organization, along with the Rural Workers Association (ATC), has been the central means for pushing through agrarian reform.

Today one-fifth of the cultivated land is state-owned and operated. Large landowners (those with more than 865 acres) own 14 percent of the productive land. Individual small and medium producers now own over 60 percent of the area under cultivation, and Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives — land owned by individual peasants but worked collectively — make up almost 5 percent of this amount.

The FSLN has carried out a campaign to strengthen UNAG. Regional meetings held throughout the country culminated in a national assembly last July. In October, 30,000 farmers and ranchers from all over Nicaragua came together for a National Assembly of Producers in Managua. They demonstrated their support for the revolution and, as those most directly affected by the U.S.-backed war, their willingness to continue to fight and produce for their revolution.

Daniel Núñez, FSLN leader and president of UNAG, spoke at length with international correspondents around the time of the national meeting. He explained the accomplishments of Nicaragua's ranchers and farmers and the challenges they face in moving their revolution forward in the midst of the war. Major excerpts from his presentation appear in the January 21 issue of *Intercontinental Press*. (See ad on page 6 for information on how to get *Intercontinental Press*.)

The article reprinted below, which includes a brief introduction, gives an idea of

life on one of Nicaragua's Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives. The farm described, the Leonel Valdivia Cooperative, is one of the most successful in the country. The article, under the title "We took it from the landlord and made it into a model farm," appeared in "Monday's Social Economics," a regular feature section of *Barricada*. Translation is by the *Militant*.

Barricada

Tens of thousands of patriotic producers from all over the country met together in Managua last week to demonstrate their support for the policies of the revolution.

This support to the revolution comes primarily from the small- and medium-size organized farmers, who constitute 66 percent of the economically active farm population, those who suffer most directly from the mercenary aggression. It is the support of the thousands of soldier-peasants who fight to move forward with the production of food in the war zones, alternating their productive tasks with the defense of the fatherland.

The article that we are printing in this Monday's Social Economics column is a small tribute to the commitment of these peasants to the revolution that belongs to them, a commitment sealed with the blood of 800 farmers assassinated by the CIA bands.

The Leonel Valdivia Cooperative in Sébaco produces vegetables and grains. This cooperative combines many of the achievements that UNAG [Union of Ranchers and Farmers] has pushed forward in agriculture, always representing the interests of the producers on the land.

An irreversible transformation has begun in the conditions of production and lifestyle of the majority of poor peasants, who in the past were marginalized and subjected to complete misery and who today are organized and form an iron wall against the counterrevolution. They are one of the foundations of the future economic development of our country.

In the weeks before the revolutionary triumph, in the midst of a full-blown insurrection, the peasants of Changüitillo in the area of Sébaco responded to the call of the Sandinistas to work the land in every way possible.

They took abandoned estates and began to sow beans and corn. Somoza's National Guard then bombed the cities in the north and when the peasants saw the airplanes approaching, they ran and took refuge in nearby trenches. Afterwards they would continue plowing the deteriorating fields full of holes and tufts of grass.

This is how in 1979 they began organizing what today has become a model cooperative. The members named their cooperative after one of the fallen fighters of those days, Leonel Valdivia, whose father is now one of the cooperative mem-



Two of Leonel Valdivia Cooperative's 48 members. Isabel Martínez, left, and Higinio Palacios, right. Martínez is a co-op president.

bers you can see working stooped beneath the sun among the green rows of cabbage and onions.

In the past the farms that now belong to the Leonel Valdivia Cooperative — 160 manzanas [1 manzana = 1 3/4 acres] of good land granted to them through the agrarian reform of 1981 — belonged to Somozaist landowners. Using subterfuge and deception, these landowners had forced the poor peasants to sell their land at ridiculously low prices.

The agrarian reform

Sébaco Valley is characterized by its fertility. It was part of the 48 percent of the country's arable land that was concentrated in the hands of the large property owners, who also had access to available credit, machines, supplies, technical assistance, and infrastructure.

After five years of revolution, because of changes brought through the agrarian reform, the small and medium farmers now account for 60 percent of the agricultural production. Fertile land — 1,900,000 manzanas of it — has been distributed to 34,213 farming families who work it individually, in cooperatives, or who are members of the Indian communities of Nicaragua.

UNAG, which is the organization of the patriotic producers of the countryside, has backed the development of cooperatives because they make it possible to unify efforts, raise production, and rationalize the use of scarce productive resources. In addition, UNAG helps farmers benefit from the credit policies and technical advice offered by the state.

The Leonel Valdivia Sandinista Agricultural Cooperative received its first bank loans only two months after the Sandinista revolution triumphed. Since its inception, the co-op has been assisted by an agrarian-reform technician, who shares the daily life of the peasants.

Today this cooperative — made up of 48 members, including 11 women — has managed to "take off" economically, thanks to high production last season of several vegetables: cabbages, tomatoes, onions, carrots, chiltomas; and of basic grains: corn and beans.

Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives: alternative development

With obvious pride, Isabel Martínez, the president, showed us the rows where tomatoes were beginning to splash the earth with red, while sprinklers sprayed out water in a circular pattern. "Nothing like this existed before; we built it together and with a great deal of effort."

Last year and this year, thanks to good yields, they reached their proposed goals. Each member's earnings for the year totaled about 58,000 córdobas [1 córdoba = US\$.04] — a figure that takes into account advance payments in the form of loans, payment in kind, and deductions for taxes.

One of the members, 17-year-old Raúl Palacios, approached us carrying a sack of vegetables and his machete. "What advantages do you have working in a cooperative?" we asked him. He answered us smiling. "It's real nice to work this way, organized, because we know what we are producing. With what I earn I am able to take care of my younger brothers."

For his part, José Valdivia, Leonel's father, agrees on the benefits of producing collectively and remembers that this was one of his son's dreams. "It was for this that he fought, and because he wouldn't tolerate harassment by Somoza's guards. His comrades admired him for the way he was and for the interest he showed in the well-being of all."

A legacy of unity

In talking with the members of the cooperative's board of directors, one common quality comes through: concern for democratic functioning and collective participation. One can't help but realize that this collective method embodies the best legacy passed on to them by this fighting peasant that everyone remembers.

Apart from the democratic participation of its members, the level of development reached by the cooperative is explained by the discipline and tenacity co-op members have put into building their organization.

Every 15 days the board of directors meets. It is made up of the president, vice-president, and the coordinators of finances, production, and education. The board evaluates the progress of the co-op's plans and discusses solutions to its problems. Once a month all the members meet in a general assembly and consult on major decisions.

The work of the FSLN

The Sandinista Base Committee (CBS), made up of five members, supports the productive activities and organization of the cooperative, carrying out tasks of political orientation not only among the co-op members, but also among the residents of Changüitillo. They also try to persuade members who have a tendency to give up and want to leave when small difficulties arise, not to abandon the cooperative.

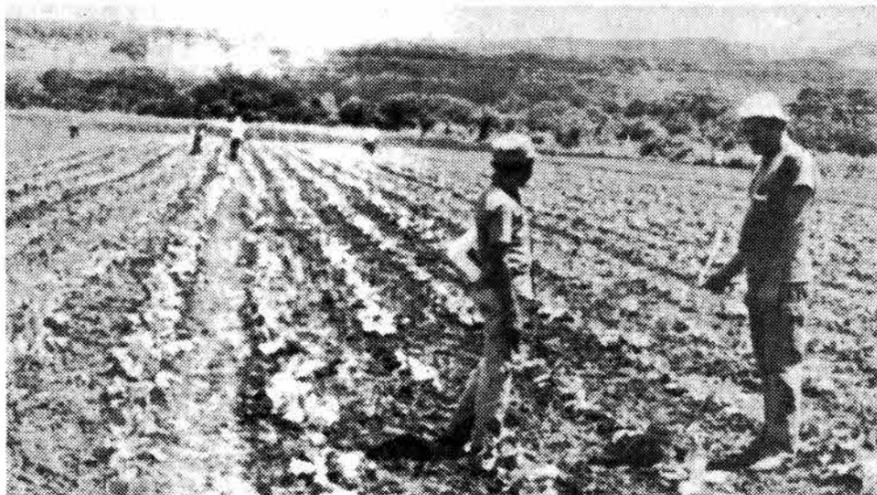
Pedro Royo, the person responsible for production, recalled that in 1981 several members quit, disillusioned by a bad harvest. "But they returned later, recognizing the advantages of cooperative work. They came to understand that good results come with time and experience."

Then he added emphatically: "You can't think like an employee in a cooperative, waiting for your pay every two weeks. On the contrary, we must act like administrators, taking into account the weather conditions, the problems with some of the equipment, because these are the situations that confront us."

If the peasants of Leonel Valdivia have faced many difficulties since they first organized, they have faced them together. They share the joys and the pains, joining their efforts and sacrifices to get to be what Fernando Tenorio, zonal director of UNAG for Sébaco, says qualifies them as an exemplary cooperative because of their level of organization, production, and the way they participate in the tasks of defense and education.

'Even beer we buy collectively'

Talking about the collective way of life and work, Moisés Palacios — 55 years old, the father of 21 sons, and the one responsible for the group's finances — explains that they even decide questions of provisions jointly: "If we need meat, we buy a cow and cut it up so it will be cheaper for



Members of Sandinista Agricultural Cooperative Leonel Valdivia span several generations.



Barricada

Sandinista Agricultural Cooperatives like Leonel Valdivia are one way Nicaraguan peasants have organized to advance since the revolution. On such cooperatives, land is owned individually but worked collectively.

us. The same is true with other products. When we want to drink beer, we even buy that wholesale."

The members of the Leonel Valdivia collective, like the peasants belonging to the 3,057 other basic organizations of UNAG, are not only owners of the land they work, but — most importantly — owners of their future as well.

The latter was vividly reflected in the words of Higinio Palacios, also one of the founders. Until recently, he was responsible for education. "I was just one more wage earner, ever since the time they took away my father's land. I worked day and night, eking out a marginal existence on a miserable salary. With the revolution, we have learned to control everything; we go to the banks and if it's necessary, we talk with a government minister."

During Somoza's time, the wage earners of the countryside simply obeyed the orders of the boss and had nothing to do with managing and administering the farm. The new reality has released the creativity and initiative of the peasant that was buried for such a long time.

Higinio raised his voice and spoke excitedly. "We are going to do everything that is necessary so that we never return to that terrible yoke; we are going to defend this process that has given us a new life, a new dawn."

Self-defense activity

As a matter of fact, the militias of Leonel Valdivia prepare themselves on a day-to-day basis to repel any possible counterrevolutionary aggression. Along with their determination to defend their

gains, they are motivated by the memory of two comrades who fell in an enemy ambush only a year ago.

In the small house that serves as the director's office hangs a portrait of Benjamín Mairena alongside one of Leonel. The peasants made it by hand, as is the case with all the furnishings in the cooperative. René Mairena, 15 years old, is one of the youngest members of the co-op. He took his brother's place. "They killed him because he was organizing. They want to return to power the same ones who were ruling here before," said the youth, who has a childlike face but a body strengthened by the hard tasks.

Outside, two militias are cleaning their AK-47 rifles that they were given to defend the community and the cooperative. Behind them there is an altar which is prepared for a mass to commemorate the first anniversary of those fallen in battle.

The women too are militia members

The women are also militia members, and their performance merits praise from the political secretary of the CBS, Bernabé Reyes. "Their capacity in production and defense is the same as ours; they don't give any kind of excuses and they are very disciplined."

The militias are made up of a squadron leader and three detachments. They have been involved in operations pursuing counterrevolutionary bands in far-away zones, and each night they defend the town's perimeter. The CBS encourages peasants to participate in the revolutionary vigilance.

Higinio Palacios told us that they've also organized cultural and festive activities for their people. For example, some time ago they formed a musical group called "Los Solidarios de la UNAG" [The UNAG Partisans]. It has won a well-deserved reputation among the regional population for performances at various peasant festivities.

He added that the cooperative's Popular Education Center has 20 students, some of

Marroquín sends solidarity message to INS victim



Militant/Harry Ring

Héctor Marroquín and Priscilla Schenk, his wife.

The following telegram by Héctor Marroquín was sent to Rev. John M. Fife, one of the 16 activists recently indicted for allegedly violating immigration laws by assisting refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. Marroquín, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, has been fighting the U.S. government's attempt to deport him because of his political ideas for more than seven years. Reverend Fife is a supporter of Marroquín's

right to remain in this country.

As an immigrant who has received your support for my fight against deportation, I want to express my profound outrage at the U.S. government's efforts to harass and victimize you and many others for your defense of political refugees from the racist, illegal, and immoral deportations of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In solidarity,
Héctor Marroquín

Gov't. arrests refugees, supporters

Continued from back page

ernment to use against the civilian population, as well as the armed rebels.

These attacks are also part of the discriminatory immigration policy of the U.S. government. It refuses to grant political asylum to people fleeing repressive governments that Washington supports, while granting asylum to those coming from countries whose governments are in conflict with the U.S. rulers. Washington argues that refugees from Central America are fleeing poverty, not governmental repression, and therefore are not entitled to political asylum.

"The Socialist Workers campaign demands asylum for all refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala," González said. "No one can hear about the government terror against the civilian population in El Salvador or read the Guatemalan government's own figures — that its troops have left 100,000 children with at least one par-

ent dead — and not know that these refugees come to escape the repression paid for by the U.S. government."

She drew a parallel between this attack on refugees and their supporters and Socialist Workers Party leader Héctor Marroquín's fight to stay in this country. "The U.S. government refuses to give asylum to the victims of its war in Central America and it refuses to grant Marroquín permanent residence because he is an outspoken opponent of this war.

"The Socialist Workers Party opposes all deportations — whether people come for political or economic reasons. We call for an open border," declared González.

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



Militant/José G. Pérez

Participants in National Assembly of Producers held by Nicaragua's Union of Ranchers and Farmers in Managua last October. Tens of thousands of peasants from all over country gathered to demonstrate support for revolution's policies and opposition to U.S.-backed war. They are among Nicaraguans who suffer most from imperialist aggression.

Touch typing — On the horizon: a computerized keyboard which keeps track of typing speed. When the typist speeds up, the



Harry Ring

machine, using a speech synthesizer, will offer congrats. When it deems a typist to be too slow, the keys automatically become sharper and more uncomfortable until there's a speedup.

Who could ask for more — The Marines may have to revamp their recruiting commercial showing an officer holding a sword aloft while the voice advises that the service is looking for "a few good men." Now, it's reported, the top brass is weighing the possibility of permitting female officers to share the present male privilege of carrying a sword on ceremonial occasions. Maybe the new commercial could advise, "You've come a long way, baby."

Joy and Thanks — (Lifted from the *New York Times* Metropolitan Diary column): Printed on an Amoco credit card bill received by a woman in Brooklyn: "CREDIT CARD PRIVILEGES SUS-

PENDED. May the holiday season be one of joy for you."

Profit addiction — The price of tobacco leaf has remained steady for two years and new high-speed equipment has boosted manufacturing productivity. But the coffin nail industry has again raised prices. A stock analyst for Merrill Lynch, the Wall St. folk, saluted the move. "We regard it as highly positive," he declared, "that the cigarette companies have chosen once again to raise prices aggressively."

Travel tip — If you're looking for a place to crash in Atlantic City, check out the Versailles suite at the Sands. Split level, featuring a Jacuzzi for eight with bubble

machine and skylight, TV and phone in the toilet and lifesize portraits of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Reserved for bundle-dropping high rollers.

People, what's people? — Cardio-Fitness Center gyms are doing nicely catering to wide-bottomed corporate execs. These particular spas, it's stressed, are not aerobic equivalents of singles bars. Observes Cardio-Fitness prez Jerry Zuckerman, "We cater to the people who have been successful in their professional life. They're not interested in meeting people, per se."

Dining tip — We were going to skip Petrossian, a new eating spot in New York. But we've learned

that the \$98 dinner includes caviar served on a silver-lined, black lacquered plate with a golden spoon. (Unlike your every-day silverware, gold doesn't impair the flavor of caviar.)

Our mixed economy — The ITT Corp., which brings us Twinkies and Wonderbread, also produces igniters for the Pershing 2 missile. Textron, which turns out staples, pens, and school supplies, also makes the control system for the Minuteman III missile. And National Distillers, which provides Almaden wine and various other wines and liquors, also turns out fuel elements for nuclear warheads. Not, however, we trust, from the same vats.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Famine in Ethiopia: Legacy of Colonialism. Speaker: Eddie Berger, member Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

The Famine in Ethiopia: Who Is Responsible? Speaker: Mari Hawkes, member International Association of Machinists and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Jose

Political Upheaval in India: an Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Asha Singh, trade union and women's rights activist in India, leader of Revolutionary Communist Organization. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Socialist Educational Conference.

1. Class: "Origins of Women's Oppression:

A Marxist Analysis." Speaker: Ellen Haywood, member National Committee, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

2. Forum: "War and Revolution in the Americas." Speaker: Maceo Dixon, member National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., preceded by forum dinner, social to follow.

3. Class: "A Strategy for Women's Liberation." Speaker: Ellen Haywood. Sun., Jan. 27, 1 p.m.

504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: each class, \$1; forum, \$2. Ausp: SWP, YSA, Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

The Truth About Nicaragua: Eyewitness account and slideshow. Speaker: Kevin Dwire, member Socialist Workers Party and United Steelworkers Local 4315, recently returned from Nicaragua harvest brigade. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

The Fight for Black Majority Rule in South

Africa. Speakers: Owen Noiokong, South African student activist; Reverend Cojo, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; representative of National Black Independent Political Party; Allyson Best, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

The Struggle for Women's Liberation. A socialist educational conference. Speaker: Nan Bailey, member National Committee of Socialist Workers Party, longtime Black activist and feminist, and garment worker in New York City.

1. "Origins of Women's Oppression." Sat., Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

2. "How to Win Women's Liberation." Sun., Jan. 27, 12 noon.

Translation to Spanish. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2 per class, or \$5 for conference including forum (see below). Child care available. Ausp: New Orleans Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution. Panel discussion on advances of women in Nicaragua since 1979 revolution. Speakers: Nan Bailey, member National Committee Socialist Workers Party; Sister Betty Campbell, worked in Nicaragua with women in health care, factories, and Sandinista neighborhood committees; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 26, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Bitter Toll of the Continuing U.S. War Against Vietnam and Kampuchea. Speakers: Rich Stahl, Vietnam Veterans Artists, Inc.; Paul Shannon, associate editor, *Indochina Newsletter*; Jane Roland, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Fighting Legacy of Martin Luther King. Speakers: Mahmoud El-Kati; Jay Ressler, member Socialist Workers Party and International Union of Electronic Workers. Sun., Jan. 20, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

How the Nicaraguan Revolution Defends Farmers and Farm Workers. A farmer's eyewitness report by Charles Smith, member of North American Farm Alliance and Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Feb. 3, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt. A panel discussion. Sun., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Freedom Struggle in South Africa. Speakers: Ira Williams, vice-president, Social Service Employees Union Local 371; Sandy Boyer, Co-coordinator, Labor Committee Against Apartheid; Rev. Arthur Jones, president, New Democratic Association; Lafayette Little Avant, president, Black Student Organization at Rutgers; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner Raymond, one block from Broad). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Burkina Revolution and the Fight for National Liberation in Africa. Speaker: Leandre Bassolé, Burkina's ambassador to the United Nations. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. Forum dinner served at 6:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blks. south of Canal btw. Broadway and Church). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Celebrate Inauguration of the First Democratically Elected Nicaraguan Government. A program of activities including video films, live music, and traditional Nicaraguan food. Sat., Jan. 26, noon to 9 p.m., dance to follow. Taller Latinoamericano, 19 W 21 St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Ausp: International Work Brigades, Madre, Nicaragua Support Project, Ventana NICMAC, WREE. For more information call (212) 696-4792.

Cultural Program on Nicaragua. Eyewitness report and slideshow by recently returned members of international construction brigade in Nicaragua. Music and poetry presentations. Mon., Jan. 28, 8 p.m. 151 W 19 St., 7th floor. Ausp: Nicaragua Support Project. For more information call (212) 989-9436.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Famine in Africa. Speakers: Dr. Francis Watson, research scientist, Agriculture and Education Extension Program of Agriculture and Technical University; Emery Rand, director of Land Ownership Information Project; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm, suite 522. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Maurice Bishop Speaks. Tape recording of speech by Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop given in 1983 at Hunter College, New York. Discussion to follow. Sun., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

Report-back on the British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: Kipp Dawson, member United Mine Workers of America and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Trade Union Democracy in Nicaragua. Slideshow and presentation by Janet Post, member of International Association of Machinists Local 79 and Socialist Workers Party, participated in 1984 international harvest brigade in Nicaragua. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Maurice. West Coast premiere of Cuban film on Maurice Bishop and Grenada revolution. Sat., Jan. 25, 7 and 9 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Barricada Internacional, the weekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is now available in Spanish and English. The price is 6 months for \$12. Send check or money order to: Barricada Internacional, Apdo. No. 576 Managua, Nicaragua.

Defend women's right to abortion!

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Abortion Rights Under Terrorist Attack. A panel discussion on how best to defend women's rights. Speakers: Chiquita Rollins, representative of Right to Choose; Dianne Post, attorney; Barbara Greenway, Socialist Workers Party; Judith Guenther, Phoenix chapter, National Organization for Women. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell, room 3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Terror Against Women's Rights — How to End the Attacks on Legal Abortion. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor, Kenmore T. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Defend Abortion Rights: Stop Violence Against the Clinics! Speakers: Carla Whittington, president of Twin Cities National Organization for Women; Ruth Voights, Native American activist; representative Minnesota Task Force on Clinic Violence; Susan Apstein, member International Union of Electronic Workers and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 27, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Abortion Rights Under Attack. Speakers: Allison Hile, representative of Hope Clinic for Women; Lucia Miller, Missouri National Abortion Rights Action League; Ann Owens, member United Mine Workers Local 2295 and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Stop the Clinic Bombings. Defend the Right to Abortion. Speakers: Angela Chaney, Cincinnati Women's Services; Susan Flanary, Cincinnati Women for Women; Lorraine Starsky, member Socialist Workers Party and United Auto Workers Local 647; Pat Hamer, member National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

Stop Terrorist Bombings of Abortion Clinics. Defend Abortion Rights! A panel of speakers. Diane Underwood, president, Cleveland National Organization for Women; Julia Chrin, president Cleveland Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Tamar Rosenfeld, member Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Teamsters Local 507. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Abortion Rights Under Attack. Speaker: Barbara Simons, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 402-T and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Defend Abortion Rights. Stop the Violence Against the Clinics! Speakers: Maggi Cage, executive-director, Fox Valley Reproductive Health Care Center; Cindy Van Vreede, Reproductive Rights Task Force of National Organization for Women; Chris Breihan, member United Auto Workers Local 438 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: 'My people want freedom now'

Giant Steps, The Autobiography of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Peter Knobler. Bantam Books, 1985, \$3.95.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a great basketball player. His skyhook can kill any opposing team. Defensively he is the master of intimidation and the blocked shot. Kareem is the all-time leading scorer in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and has won the Most Valuable Player award more times (six) than any other player.

Giant Steps, the Autobiography of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a national bestseller.

What Kareem says about the game is fascinating, especially if you're a basketball nut. But *Giant Steps* is far

BOOK REVIEW

more than a primer for basketball enthusiasts. It's a book about a sport that is shaped by racism and the profit system.

When Kareem was born in 1947, his parents were living in Harlem. His mother grew up with the Jim Crow system of legal segregation in the South. His father, who graduated from the Juilliard School of Music with a degree in musicology and jammed with the likes of Art Blakey and Yusef Lateef, "found that blacks were simply not hired by symphony orchestras."

The rise of the civil rights movement made a big impression upon Kareem. By the time he was in the sixth grade, "segregation became a big topic of discussion" among his friends. At the age of 15 Kareem was a supporter of the Black movement. "I took every slight to every black man or woman personally. The Freedom Rides were riling up the South, and just as I was beginning to take my life in my own hands, black people were starting to lay theirs on the line."

Kareem attended Power Memorial High School, a Catholic all-boys school in New York City. One day Kareem was stopped in the hallway by one of the brothers for wearing a pin on his lapel. The brother, Power's Dean of Discipline, asked: "What's this?" The pin showed a Black fist holding a torch with the words "Freedom Now" written across it. "It's from SNCC," Kareem told him. That stood for Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and, Kareem told him, it meant that "my people want freedom . . . now."

1964 was a turning point for Kareem. He had turned 17, was a two-time All-American, and was still growing. That summer Kareem worked for the Harlem Youth Action Project.

While working for the Project as a journalist, Kareem's political awareness took a leap. Afternoons were spent at the Schomburg Center for Research in

Black Culture. He learned about Harlem's history and read widely in Black literature. For the first time he read about Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois.

From the Schomburg, Kareem would check out the goings-on in Harlem. "Black nationalists were hawking newspapers on the avenue . . . street-corner speakers were declaiming about white devils and low pay and high time we did something about it. Malcolm X was on the soapbox, James Brown on the radio, and a serious sense of action was in the air."

In July, Harlem exploded for five days after a white off-duty cop shot and killed an unarmed Black youth. Kareem was there. "The cop was on the force, and the boy was dead. White people had been murdering blacks for too long. That night the streets belonged to the people.

"Kids were running in the streets shouting, 'We want Malcolm! We want Malcolm!'"

At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Kareem read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. He couldn't put it down. "It was exhilarating, all the things I had always assumed, he was saying out loud. His life was like a primer for me . . ."

"Malcolm's mother was from Grenada; my people came from Trinidad in the same generation. Malcolm's father was a follower of black nationalist Marcus Garvey; my father remembered his own father and mother talking heatedly about Garvey in their home.

"He said black people had been segregated so far out of American life that black history in the American history textbook was one paragraph, but that Crispus Attucks, a black man, was the first person to die in the American Revolution and that black people's contributions to America were a lot more than just working in the fields and doing the hambone."

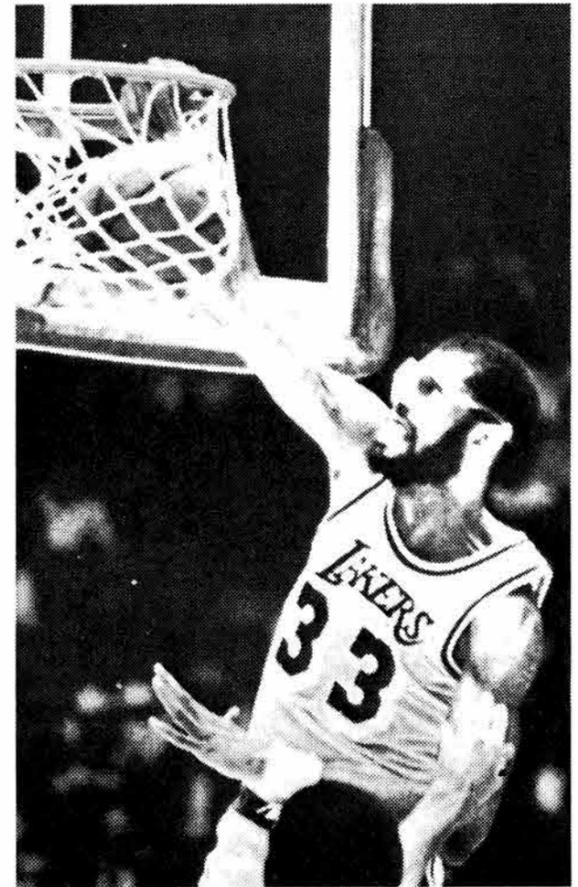
Largely because of Malcolm X, Kareem converted to Islam. He met Hamaas Abdul-Khaalis, a former jazz drummer, who had his own following in New York.

Hamaas helped broaden Kareem's political views. "It was Hamaas who started me thinking about Vietnam, about how we were sending people over there to die for no reason; and about how this government supported white racism in South Africa; and about how the government used all the poor people, black and white, to support the upper classes."

In 1971 Kareem changed his name from Lew Alcindor to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Along with several of his UCLA teammates, Kareem refused to try out for the U.S. Olympic basketball team in 1968. The boycott movement, known as the Olympic Project for Human Rights, was organized "to dramatize and protest the systematic discrimination" against Blacks in the United States.

"If white America was going to treat blacks poorly, then white America could win the Olympics on its own." To bolster his point, Kareem related how after the "1960



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, top scorer in the National Basketball Association, tells story of his struggle against racism in his best-selling autobiography.

Olympics a young Cassius Clay, not yet Muhammad Ali, had worn his gold medal into a southern restaurant and had been refused service because he was black."

Kareem opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam. "Any fool," he said, "could see that the politicians had been lying for years about body counts and 'winning the hearts and minds,' and about how and why we were there. It wasn't my war, wasn't my cause, and I didn't want to see any of my guys get shot up in it." Kareem tells several touching stories of friends from the ghetto who either didn't make it home or were destroyed psychologically by the war.

Despite his celebrity status, Kareem has borne the brunt of racism throughout his career.

As an All-American at UCLA, Kareem lived in virtual poverty.

Kareem talks at length about the injustice meted out against Black players in the NBA. In nine out of ten brawls, it's the Black players who are disciplined.

All professional sports put profits before the players. Professional basketball is unique in the sense that it is "a black sport run as a white business." The fact that professional basketball is predominantly Black does not mean that Blacks are not discriminated against. Just the opposite.

The tycoons who own the NBA have a white quota system: white players will make the team even if they are inferior. The reason is economics — the owners have a commodity to sell and it can't be all-Black. Kareem explains that "pro basketball is a black game being sold to white people, and the owners, who have serious dollars sunk into the league, are out to protect their investment."

Most books dealing with the issue of sports separate the athlete from the social and political conditions in which they take place. *Giant Step* is different. It is a book that can help change how you view the world.

Books to read by Malcolm X



By Any Means Necessary	\$3.95
Malcolm X on Afro-American History	2.95
Malcolm X Talks to Young People	.75
Two Speeches by Malcolm X	.75
Malcolm X Speaks	5.95

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

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

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54 St. Zip: 33137. PO Box 381073. Zip: 33138. 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 Paddock 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.

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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.

Defend right to abortion!

Continued from front page
lar measures in 36 states that cut off public funding for abortion.

The drive against abortion rights has dramatically intensified in the last year. The recent wave of bombings are aimed at preventing women from being able to obtain abortions. They are aimed at helping create a movement that can lay the basis to make abortion illegal again.

And they have had an effect. In Pensacola, Florida, for example, it is no longer possible to obtain a legal abortion because the only places to obtain abortions — two clinics in the city — have been destroyed by bombs.

Matthew Goldsby, one of those who admitted to bombing these clinics, explained that he had simply chosen the "quickest route possible to stop abortion."

Others who oppose abortion rights take their distance publicly from the bombings, but claim that the actions of the bombers and arsonists are understandable.

"I can't condone violence at all, but I know that not another baby will be murdered where those bombings are going on," said one member of Christians Against Abortion.

The FBI has refused to take these attacks seriously, saying that the bombings are not terrorist and that there's no evidence of a conspiracy.

That's a lie. The attacks on abortion clinics are right-wing political terrorism, pure and simple, aimed at preventing women from exercising their constitutional right to abortion.

The federal government should take whatever steps are necessary to protect that right, including defending all abortion clinics and arresting, prosecuting, and jailing the bombers.

The reason that these right-wing opponents of women's rights can operate with virtual impunity is that they are the spearhead of a broader, concerted attack on

legal abortion by the ruling class. The attack is being carried out by both Democrats and Republicans, by liberals and conservatives, by right-wing fundamentalists and the Catholic church hierarchy, by the Ronald Reagans and the Geraldine Ferraros.

The heart of this attack is an unrelenting propaganda campaign against abortion: "abortion is murder; abortion is immoral, horrifying, and harmful. It is, at best, a necessary evil. Abortion is wrong."

Supporters of women's rights must respond to this antiwoman propaganda by saying: "Abortion is not a wrong, abortion is a woman's right."

The ultimate goal of this reactionary campaign is to again make abortion illegal. It is this political offensive against abortion rights, and the refusal of the government to stop the bombings, that sets the stage for and encourages the illegal actions of the antiwoman terrorists.

The Catholic church hierarchy is helping to lead the offensive against women. In Albany, New York, on January 11 Bishop Howard Hubbard went to court and was able to block the opening of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic on some technicalities.

As one official of Planned Parenthood explained, "They [the church hierarchy] want to say 'no more abortions in Albany County.' But beyond that, they want to say 'no more abortion.'"

Supporters of women's rights throughout the country are organizing activities around the January 22 anniversary in defense of a woman's right to choose. Picket lines, vigils at abortion clinics, teach-ins, and rallies will take place. This is a good beginning.

All working people have a big stake in answering the slander campaign against abortion rights. Unionists, Black rights fighters, all supporters of women's rights should participate in abortion-rights actions and defend women's right to abortion.

Workers should oppose rulers' 'war on crime'

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

In the wake of the attempted murder of four Black youths on a New York City subway by racist vigilante Bernhard Goetz, the capitalists and the big-business press have increased their calls for more "law and order." Last week's Learning About Socialism column explained that the ruling class is a criminal class which rips off working people both through "legal" means — like making profits off our labor — and "illegal" means — like violating on-the-job health and safety laws.

One view of what causes crime, which is often presented as Marxist, is the idea that capitalism causes poverty, and poverty causes crime. While blaming the social system for the problem, this view portrays the working

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class as the source of crime. But impoverished working people are not the source of crime. The ruling class is. The view that poverty per se is the cause of crime leads to supporting the call for more jails, more cops, and more restrictions on the rights of the working class today — since poverty does exist.

While most working people would not steal except to survive, the wealthy families that run this country have no such moral compunctions. They continue to steal no matter how much wealth they have. The owners of General Motors, for example, after making billions in record-breaking profits last year, had no hesitations about stealing millions more from auto workers in the last contract.

Crime by working people against each other is a product of the breakdown of human solidarity bred by the private-profit system. This system pits individual against individual in the constant battle to survive. The divisions along race and sex lines; the competition for jobs among workers and the divisions and insecurity it breeds; the ideology that sees all social problems as individual ones to be solved individually at the expense of others — these are rooted in class-divided society. For example, violence in working class families — the abuse of women and children — is a product of the pressure capitalism puts on the individual family unit and the oppression of women.

These kinds of crimes can only decrease when working people overcome these divisions and collectively struggle for their rights.

An example of how the increase in solidarity leads to a decrease in crimes by working people can be seen in Nicaragua. Although that country remains poor and there is still unemployment, "street crime" has declined approximately 65 percent since the victory of the revolution. The Nicaraguan government, because it represents the workers and farmers, does not deepen divisions among working people but leads them in collective struggle for social solutions to their problems.

Law-and-order campaigns, proposed by the capitalist class to supposedly end crime, are an obstacle to building this kind of solidarity. These campaigns deepen the divisions among working people and strengthen the repressive apparatus of the capitalist class which produces more violence against working people.

Attorney General William French Smith outlined before the Federal Legal Council in October 1981 what the government really has in mind when it talks about launching a "war on crime."

Smith said, "We have proposed a new approach to immigration and refugee policy designed to reassert control over our borders. . . . We have firmly enforced the law that forbids federal employees from striking. We have opposed the distortion of the meaning of equal protection by courts that mandate counterproductive busing and quotas."

As the attorney general's speech clearly shows, in the government's war on crime there is no distinction between "criminals" and workers and oppressed who fight for their rights. For this reason, working people must reject any attacks on the rights of those arrested for "criminal" as opposed to political reasons. If, for example, bail rights are taken away from someone who allegedly robs a bank, it sets a precedent. It makes it easier for these rights to be taken away from those arrested in a strike, or in defense of Black rights or for any other political reason.

Vigilantism of any kind serves only to inflame racism and escalate the breakdown of working-class solidarity. It is linked to calls for more cops. It, like the law-and-order campaign of the capitalist class that spawned it, must be rejected for what it is — a weapon in the capitalist arsenal against the working class.

Socialists fight against the crimes of the capitalist class — both those that are sanctioned by law and those that are illegal even under its own judicial system. In the fight for our rights as a class and in defending the rights of the most oppressed, we can build solidarity among working people. This solidarity — the standing together of working people against the bosses on a world scale — can build a new society freed of crime and violence through eliminating its roots.

Anti-apartheid fight & April 20

Since November, trade unionists, students, community and church activists, fighters for women's rights, and especially Blacks have been mounting a campaign against South Africa's apartheid regime. More than 100 people have been arrested in Washington, D.C., for protesting outside of the South African embassy there. Hundreds more have been arrested elsewhere. Demonstrations have taken place in cities across the country.

In some cases, such as with the Washington picket lines, the actions occur daily. One of the most impressive aspects of the actions has been the breadth of support from trade unions. Many union activists have been among the picketers outside the South African embassy. Several top trade union officials have been arrested.

These protests are an important show of solidarity with the Black freedom struggle in South Africa. The entire labor movement and all supporters of democratic rights should participate in and help to build these picket lines and other educational activities.

Renewed anti-apartheid protest activity in this country comes at a time when South African Blacks have stepped up their struggle. Last November, one million Black

workers waged a two-day general strike in South Africa's industrial heartland — the largest political strike in the country's history.

The strike itself came after months of massive street demonstrations by Black students and rebellions in Black townships against various aspects of apartheid rule.

Following the November general strike South Africa's rulers launched a brutal crackdown on the Black trade unions and other groups that organized the protests. Last year South African cops killed more than 160 Blacks. They arrested thousands of trade unionists, students, and other activists. Thousands of South African troops and cops swept through selected Black townships.

The South African regime hopes that its repression will crush the latest upsurge of Black protest against apartheid rule. But the Black majority in South Africa cannot forever be held in check — no matter how brutally it is repressed.

The U.S. ruling class fully backs the apartheid regime. U.S. employers invest billions of dollars in South Africa because they can make superprofits off the low-cost labor of Black workers.

Moreover, the South African imperialists work with their U.S. and European counterparts in trying to beat back the revolutionary struggles of African peoples throughout southern Africa, playing the same role in this region as the Israeli rulers do in the Mideast.

What the U.S. imperialists are doing in southern Africa they are carrying out far more openly in Central America. There the U.S. government is waging a racist war of terror aimed at overthrowing the workers and peasants government in Nicaragua. The U.S. rulers are also funneling massive amounts of aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship in its war against the insurgent workers and peasants of that country.

The call for an April 20 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C., gives working people a chance to demonstrate against both the U.S. intervention in Central America and Washington's complicity with apartheid. The central demand of the April 20 action is "Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America." Marchers will also demand "Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home." Among the many groups that have united to organize the action is TransAfrica, the group centrally responsible for initiating the anti-apartheid protests.

In approaching trade unions, women's rights groups, Black organizations, and other groups to join in anti-apartheid activity, activists should urge participation in the April 20 protest. The demonstration already enjoys the support of two important unions — the International Association of Machinists and the United Food and Commercial Workers. Big opportunities exist for getting more labor endorsement and participation. Black workers will be especially interested in joining the action.

By building the April 20 protest as broadly as possible, anti-apartheid activists can deal yet another blow to the racist warmakers in Washington.



Bilingual education: a fight for equal rights

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

A study recently released by the Hispanic Policy Development Project revealed that 45 percent of all Chicano and Puerto Rican students never finish school. Forty percent of those who drop out do so before they even begin high school.

While the project's president, Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicolau, acknowledged that the result of the study "forebodes a crisis of major proportions," neither she nor the study offered any explanation for the staggering drop-out rate.

One possible explanation for why Hispanic students leave school so early and in such large numbers can be seen in the story of Frank Torres. At seven, he was fluent

AS I SEE IT

in Spanish but spoke no English. The New York City school system, however, used tests in English to measure his learning ability. He was subsequently diagnosed as mentally deficient. He lived with this stigma and the limited educational opportunities it brought until adulthood. In fact, Torres was not mentally deficient — he simply didn't speak English. Today, 20 years later, he is a functional illiterate.

Fortunately, the majority of Hispanic children do not end up being diagnosed as retarded. But their experiences in the racist school system can and often do have a negative effect on their education.

Memories of my own school days in New York City include teachers telling us "to go back to San Juan" (Puerto Rico) if we didn't speak English and washing our mouths out with soap for speaking Spanish in class. The message they sent was clear: you, and your language were inferior. You were not wanted in the school system.

Approximately 50 percent of the Puerto Rican children of my generation were pushed out of high school. This was not simply a question of individual racist teachers, although there were more than a few of those. This was the policy of the Board of Education and the bureaucratic officialdom of the teachers' union — the United Federation of Teachers. These forces combined time and time again to oppose every attempt to improve the education system and make it responsive to the needs of Hispanics.

Toward the end of the 1960s, inspired by the massive civil rights movement, Puerto Ricans in the East and Chicanos in the Southwest began to organize to demand an end to racist discrimination in all facets of our lives. We knew that equality in education for us meant the establishment of bilingual education.

The idea was very simple. Children who spoke Spanish could only be educated in a language they understood. They couldn't learn if they were taught in a foreign language. And if you spoke Spanish, English was a foreign language. To receive an equal education with Anglo children in the United States, these children needed to be taught in Spanish and to improve their knowledge of their native language while they simultaneously learned English. In this way they would receive an equal education and develop pride in themselves and their heritage. Through bilingual education they would learn, for the first time ever in U.S. schools, that the language of Cervantes is as good as the language of Shakespeare. This victory opened the door for bilingual education for Chinese students as well.

Bilingual education was only begrudgingly established after important struggles by Hispanics. Today, in the face of a general offensive against the rights of working people, bilingual education is under attack.

Federal funding has been cut 38 percent since 1980. This means that at least 140,000 children who need bilingual education will not receive it. Besides funding cuts, bilingual education has been subject to broadside political attacks. Cities like Miami have passed ordinances making English the official language of that city. Congress has discussed doing the same thing on a national level. In San Francisco there was an attempt to outlaw the use of bilingual ballots in elections.

In New York City, Mayor Koch and the Board of Education have been slowly but surely dismantling bilingual education programs. In schools like PS 19 in Queens, for example, with a student body that is 85 percent Hispanic, the number of bilingual classes decreased from 18 in 1981 to five in 1984.

Last year, the city administration stepped up its attacks on Hispanics. The focus of these attacks was a campaign to force Anthony Alvarado, the first Puerto Rican chancellor of the New York City school system, to resign. Alvarado was appointed as a result of pressure from the Black and Puerto Rican communities.

As the former director of the East Harlem School District, Alvarado had a reputation for being committed to programs like bilingual education, that helped Blacks and Puerto Ricans stay in school and do better there. After he became chancellor, he initiated some policies that benefited all working people in the city.

Within months of his appointment, the city administration orchestrated a campaign against Alvarado, charging him with corruption. But Alvarado's real crime, as far as the Koch administration was concerned, was that he tried to make the school system a little more equal.

This was clearly demonstrated by the fact that the first thing Koch's own man, Nathan Quiñones, did after replacing Alvarado as chancellor was to dismantle almost every one of the progressive education programs that Alvarado had supported.

Koch's education policies are racist. The policies of his two major opponents for the Democratic Party's mayoral nomination — Carol Bellamy and Herman Badillo — are not much different.

Carol Bellamy, current president of the city council, refused to support the demands of the Black and Puerto Rican communities for a school board chancellor that would be responsive to their needs. And she didn't lift one finger in defense of Alvarado's policies during Koch's campaign against him.

Herman Badillo, who is Puerto Rican, is no better. He was one of Koch's own deputy mayors. He holds responsibility with Koch for the attacks on the city's Hispanic community.

This should not surprise us. Badillo, Bellamy, and Koch are all in the capitalist Democratic Party. All three support the class that makes profits off the oppression of Blacks and Puerto Ricans and that benefits from the divisions within the working class.

Puerto Ricans won the democratic right to receive bilingual education in struggle. We will only keep this right, under attack today, by fighting for it. My campaign supports full bilingual education for all Spanish-speaking and Chinese-speaking students.

Andrea González is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York. González, a Puerto Rican, is 33 years old and was born and raised in New York City.

LETTERS

'A Soldier's Story'

I would like to offer a different view of the movie *A Soldier's Story* than that offered by Sam Manuel in his Dec. 7, 1984, review in the *Militant*.

On top of the long list of racist brutalities depicted in the movie that Manuel himself recounts, one could add that every white officer, save one, is shown to be either personally capable of violence toward Blacks, or willing to let such brutality go unchallenged. The base commander even refuses to grant Howard Rollins permission to stand at ease (much less take a seat) while the commander eats breakfast at home.

Indeed, the whole basis of the story line is to show the reality where Blacks are so routinely terrorized by the white population in and out of the army that the first assumption made by everyone is that a white committed the murder of the Black sergeant.

Given all this, how can one conclude, as Manuel does, that the message of the film is: 1. Black soldiers are often killed by other Blacks; 2. Black soldiers suffer more abuse from Black officers than white officers; or 3. the army comes out smelling like a rose?

Manuel also objects to the ending that, I agree, does reflect the author's view that someday the army will no longer be so racist. That is not a conclusion I share. However, to reject an artistic effort because the final scene projects an unwarranted hopeful day in the future, would mean rejecting just about every piece of literature written since the beginning of civilization.

In published interviews, *A Soldier's Story* author Charles Fuller stated that his goal was to show the wide-ranging personalities and responses that exist in the Black experience to a racist act in a racist environment. In order to draw this out he consciously chose an atypical

case of a Black killing another Black — not to argue that Blacks face greater danger from other Blacks, but to better center on his goal.

Manuel's last comment is, "the story of Black soldiers remains untold." That is true. But it was not the goal of the film. John Votava
Chicago, Illinois

'Women of Steel'

As a woman who was laid off from Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point, Maryland, I was very interested to read in *Steellabor*, the newspaper of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), that the union has put out a short documentary film called *Women of Steel*.

According to the review, "the film shows the effect of the loss of industrial jobs as it relates to women workers, the erosion of affirmative-action programs and the return to the nonunion service sector of many women who once had worked in steel." It explains, "Women became highly paid industrial workers before the 1980's. Now they are again shunted into the lower-paying occupations of the 'pink collar ghetto.'"

USWA Vice-president Leon Lynch says the film shows "not only what happens when women are forced out of the industrial sector, but also the results when government abandons the affirmative-action concept."

The film tells the story of three women, all single heads of households who held "traditional" low-paying women's jobs before they got hired in a mill. One was a waitress, another a low-level case worker, and the third drove a school bus.

The review explains how getting hired in the mill enabled them to support their families. And it explains that "expecting to stay,

they began to work through their union for the things they needed at work: bathrooms, apprenticeships, training, and responsive leadership. This led them to issues beyond the mill gates, such as the struggles for the ERA and for civil rights."

Today, these women have "come full circle. Once again they are employed in the 'pink collar ghetto,'" it continues. One is a waitress, another a receptionist, and the third has just been laid off again.

This is an all-too-familiar story. And it's more than a personal, demoralizing setback for the individual women involved. When women began to break down the barriers and get into the industrial jobs they had been kept out of, they took a step toward full equality in the workplace and the union movement. As with Blacks and other oppressed minorities, this is a crucial step in forging a union movement that can fight effectively for all working people.

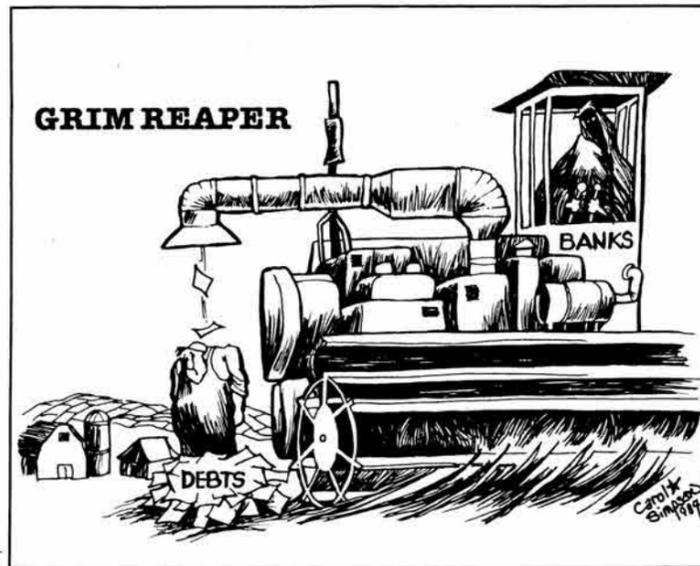
We need to continue discussions in the unions on why we should fight to defend and extend affirmative action.

It sounds like this film would be a good basis for such a discussion. It is available from the Communications Department of the USWA, Five Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222. I hope the *Militant* will write more on the question of affirmative action and the status of women workers today.

Barbara Bowman
Brooklyn, New York

Utah mine fire

I would like readers to know that Emery Mining Corp. has persistently claimed that the fire at the Wilberg mine in Utah started at the belt-entry and spread to the intake-entry, despite testimony of witnesses that contradicts this, and the illogic of this conclusion. Even



though the public position of the company is that it is too early to place blame, by directing attention to the belt-fire theory, they are de facto blaming the workers who are beltmen.

Beltmen are often the target of company harassment because very often they are isolated in remote parts of the mine, with no other union hands around to be witnesses on their behalf. The image of them as lazy is often promoted, while they receive little if any recognition of a job well done.

This position was manifested to us recently at the Deer Creek mine. A foreman remarked that there would be no more leaving a post to find a warm place to eat lunch. He wasn't going to trust his life to some "out-by people" who weren't "doing their jobs."

Recently, I encountered some discussion on a crew that reflected some of the fear that miners live with. One coworker said that his wife was asking him to quit and find safer employment. His reply was that a person can't find work at a living wage anymore. Another coworker said that her husband wanted her to quit also. At this point I said that, while it would be

nice to have a less dangerous job, the answer was not to quit, but to find out what caused the fire, and to organize to fight it and the rising trend in mine fatalities. All of us agreed on this point.

Joe Geiser
United Mine Workers of America
Local 1769
Price, Utah

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.

U.S. gov't launches crackdown on refugees from Central America

60 arrested, 16 indicted in nationwide attack on sanctuary movement

BY MARITZA LEBRON

NEW YORK — "The arrests of refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador and the indictments of sanctuary activists is an attempt to intimidate opponents of the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. The April 20 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C., provides a chance for all opponents of the war and supporters of democratic rights to protest this attack and to tell the government that we will not be intimidated," said Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

González was responding to the indictment of 16 activists for allegedly "conspiring to smuggle" Central American refugees into the United States and the arrest of 60 refugees. The crackdown was announced by the U.S. Justice Department on January 14. The sanctuary movement is a church-sponsored program that provides people fleeing U.S.-backed repression and war in El Salvador and Guatemala with shelter and helps resettle them. The movement arose in response to Washington's policy of deporting these people, denying them political asylum.

Among those indicted were a Protestant minister, two Roman Catholic priests, two nuns, and several workers. The indictments were handed down in secret by a federal grand jury in Phoenix on January 10. They were based on tape recordings by undercover government agents that had infiltrated church meetings.

Along with these indictments, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)



Rev. John M. Fife (left), one of 16 activists indicted by government for providing sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. Children jailed after immigration cops raided church-sponsored refugee housing.



raided "safe" houses — temporary facilities for refugees to rest and receive orientation before moving to permanent quarters. The raids by the INS in Seattle, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Tucson, and other cities led to the arrest of the 60 refugees. They now face deportation to their homelands and the possibility of being killed there.

At a press conference in Tucson on January 14, Rev. John M. Fife, one of those indicted, said "We will continue to assert the church's right to administer sanctuary

to helpless people whose lives hang in the balance every day." Fife also condemned the Reagan administration's policy on refugees, its illegal war against Nicaragua, and its undercover spying on activists.

A press conference in Phoenix January 15 to protest the indictments and arrests drew 130 people. It called for a protest action on January 23 at the Federal Court House in Phoenix, when the 16 are scheduled to appear in court.

A protest press conference January 15 at New York's Riverside Church drew close

to 300 people. In Philadelphia, 200 people participated in a press conference and picket line condemning the arrests.

As more and more churches throughout the U.S. publicly provided sanctuary to refugees from Central America, the INS has stepped up its attacks, beginning with the arrest last year of activists.

In Texas Stacey Ann Merkt was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to two years' probation for transporting three Salvadoran refugees. John Elder, director of a safe house in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, was arrested for conspiracy to transport refugees inside the United States. These indictments and raids were the first national attack on the sanctuary movement and represented an important new move by Washington against the rights of immigrants and the rights of opponents of the U.S. war in Central America.

The current indictments and arrests come at a time when the government is stepping up this war. The Reagan administration is on an extensive campaign to renew congressional funding for CIA-backed terrorists in Nicaragua. It is also sending more and more sophisticated weapons to the repressive Salvadoran gov-

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Ariz. activists protest raids

BY ELEN LAUPER AND ANDREW ENGLISH

PHOENIX — More than 130 people attended a news conference January 15 at the Central Presbyterian Church here to protest the indictment of 16 activists in the sanctuary movement and the arrest of 60 Central American refugees that took place the previous weekend.

Rev. Jim Oines of Alzona Lutheran Church read a statement on behalf of the Valley Religious Task Force on Central America. "We stand with our brothers and sisters who have been indicted for their involvement with the refugees from Central America."

In referring to the government's use of undercover agents to get evidence against the 16 defendants, Oines said, "All of the actions by the sanctuary workers have been done in the open. The government had been notified that we would provide sanctuary for Central American refugees. Our government did not need to infiltrate the churches with moles and informers." Oines defended the sanctuary movement and explained that, "our own 1980 Refugee Act adopted by the U.S. Congress states that people fleeing political violence should not be deported back to their country."

Also at the news conference were Rev. Jerry Roseberry of the Camelback Presbyterian Church, Donna Corbus of the Unitarian Church, Rev. Joedd Miller of the Central Presbyterian Church, Enid Jones of the Arizona Ecumenical Council, and the pastor of St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church.

The fact that the news conference was taking place on Martin Luther King's birthday was a theme of the event. Roseberry

explained that the sanctuary movement was following King's tradition. He quoted from a letter King wrote from a Birmingham jail: "When a law is unjust someone has to break it to prove it is unjust." That, Roseberry said, "is what we are attempting to do."

In reply to a question on why the government is cracking down on the sanctuary movement, Oines said, "I believe that our government is saying that we don't want

the people of the United States to really know what is going on, that we don't want refugees coming up here and telling people what is happening in these countries."

Ferd Haverly of Witness for Peace and Joe McCawley of the Committee In Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES) also participated in the news conference. They had just returned from a visit to Nicaragua. Haverly spoke about the

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New Caledonia freedom fighters killed

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Government troops in the French colony of New Caledonia murdered two leaders of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) on January 11. In an attack on a farmhouse in La Foa, French military police gunned down Eloi Machoro and Marcel Monaro, both FLNKS activists. The French troops surrounded the farmhouse and fired on the some 34 Kanaks inside.

Following the assault, the territorial government announced a state of emergency. The decree banned public gatherings of more than five people, leaflet distribution, and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

The next day, the French government announced that it was sending another 1,000 troops to bolster its occupation forces on the island. There are already 5,280 French imperialist troops on New Caledonia, a nickel-rich island 750 miles east of Australia.

The FLNKS is demanding independence

for New Caledonia. The group, a coalition of 10 proindependence organizations, has called for an immediate referendum limited to those with at least one parent born on New Caledonia. The Kanak activists explain that this would give the vote to those they describe as "victims of France's colonial history in New Caledonia."

French colonialists seized New Caledonia in 1853. Throughout the rest of the century, the Kanaks battled the French settlers, who snatched most of the island's fertile land and put the majority of Kanaks on reservations. The Kanaks are denied equal education and employment by their French colonizers.

Due to the French settlement policy, the percentage of Kanaks in the population has steadily declined. Today, the 64,000 Kanaks make up only 44 percent of the island's 145,000 inhabitants. About 35 percent are French and the remainder are natives from other French colonies in the South Pacific or people from Indochina.

It's the national oppression of the Kanak

people that is the driving force behind their demand for independence. The FLNKS organized a successful Kanak boycott of the November 18 territorial election and announced on December 1 that it had set up a provisional government of Kanaky. Machoro, one of those murdered on January 11, was the provisional government's minister of internal security. Monaro, also killed, was one of his aides.

With its beefed up occupation force and the imposition of the state of emergency, the French imperialists hope to squelch the growing Kanak independence movement. The French government plans to hold a referendum in New Caledonia in July to vote on a new so-called independence proposal. The French imperialists propose to grant New Caledonia "sovereignty," but only if linked to France by a "treaty of association."

But even this proposal goes too far for the racist French colonists, who have been stepping up their attacks on Kanak activ-

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